

THE  
FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NEW YORK ASSOCIATION

FOR  
Improving the Condition of the Poor,  
FOR THE YEAR 1885.

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*Organized, 1843—Incorporated, 1848.*

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"The quality of mercy is not strained ;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath ; it is twice blessed ;  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

NEW YORK :  
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION, 79 FOUBTH AVENUE,  
BETWEEN 10TH AND 11TH STREETS.  
1885.

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FORTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
NEW YORK ASSOCIATION  
FOR  
IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR,

*Held at No. 50 Pine Street, New York,*

OCTOBER 15TH, 1885.

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AT the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Meeting was called to order by Mr. ROBERT B. MINTURN, upon whose motion Mr. HENRY A. CASSEBEER was called to the Chair, and Mr. JOHN BOWNE was appointed Secretary.

The Annual Report of the Managers was submitted by the General Agent, Mr. BOWNE, who also laid before the Meeting the Annual Report of the Treasurer, Mr. ROBERT B. MINTURN, and the Annual Report of Mr. JOHN PATON, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

On motion of Mr. A. F. WARBURTON, the several reports were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Mr. HENRY E. PELLEW and Mr. JOHN BOWNE, for revision and approval.

Mr. FREDERICK N. OWEN having been appointed by the Chairman to act as Teller for the election of the new Board of Managers, reported that at the closing of the polls the following members had been elected to serve for the ensuing year :

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JOHN L. CADWALADER,       | WILLIAM JONES,            |
| GEORGE CALDER,            | ROBERT LENOX KENNEDY,     |
| HENRY A. CASSEBEER,       | ROBERT B. MINTURN,        |
| HENRY E. CRAMPTON, M. D., | STEPHEN H. OLIN,          |
| R. FULTON CUTTING,        | JOHN PATON,               |
| JOS. W. DREXEL,           | HENRY E. PELLEW,          |
| GEO. W. FOLSOM,           | HOWARD POTTER,            |
| FREDERIC GALLATIN,        | T. FRANKLIN SMITH, M. D., |
| JAMES GALLATIN,           | ADAM W. SPIES,            |
| W. R. HUNTINGTON, D. D..  | F. R. STURGIS, M. D.,     |
| E. H. JANES, M. D.,       | RUTHERFURD STUYVESANT,    |
| A. F. WARBURTON,          | JONATHAN THORNE.          |

On motion, the thanks of the Meeting were tendered to Mr. OWEN, for his kindness in serving as Teller.

On motion, the Meeting then adjourned.

JOHN BOWNE,  
*Secretary.*

## OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

---

*President.*

JAMES GALLATIN.

*Vice-Presidents.*

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| HOWARD POTTER, | ROBERT LENOX KENNEDY, |
| ADAM W. SPIES, | JOSEPH W. DREXEL.     |

*Treasurer.*

ROBERT B. MINTURN.

*Recording Secretary.*

R. FULTON CUTTING.

*General Agent.*

JOHN BOWNE.

Elected at a meeting of the Board of Managers, held  
November 9th, 1885.

## REPORT.

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### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

IN presenting the Annual Report of the Association, it seems becoming to bring before the public, and especially that portion of it which has so long supported us in our line of action, some explanation of the present position and prospects of our work.

During the past year, as appears in the different accompanying Reports, considerable change has been made in the manner of conducting the operations of the Association. It has been felt that it is good policy to investigate and remedy the causes which make the life of the poor in this city so unendurable, and which do so much to exaggerate the effects of poverty, sickness, precarious subsistence, exposure to the elements, and bad food.

Such work obviously involves much greater labor and larger outlay than in following the simpler but more superficial plan of confining relief to the giving of help in kind and of merely temporary assistance. Many of the poor are so situated that it is impossible for them to claim the rights to which they are entitled under the laws enacted on their behalf without exposing themselves to persecution or annoyances at the hands of landlords and others. The Association is able to interfere through its Agents directly, and to insist upon the exercise of the Municipal Law where the case is duly proven. What can be more important than to get rid of a nuisance which endangers the health of the working members of a

1885]

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.



family, and poisons the comfort of the weaker members who are always at home?

Accordingly, the Association has exposed and obtained the correction of a large number of violations of the law. In doing this it has been brought in contact with people who suffer in silence, and who would not otherwise have a chance of being reached by benevolence; and thus there has accumulated a mass of facts and evidence which enable us to speak with authority whenever the time comes which may require an expression of opinion from us.

There is, of course, danger, more or less real, of coming in conflict with the local authorities in certain cases. Our object is to do our full duty to the clients whom we represent, while doing all we can to obtain the remedy of abuses by a courteous representation of the facts, together with close conformity to existing regulations.

We claim the support of our subscribers and of the public generally for our action in this respect. We assert that we are protecting the poor, improving their condition, and aiding them to rise to a better enjoyment of life, by taking these practical measures to shew our friendship in matters where they have no one else to befriend them.

Our field of work is among the Homes of the Poor. Our first duty is to make those homes of the poor less squalid, less unwholesome, better adapted to the requirements of decency, self-respect and family unity than has been possible under the old system.

Such efforts, then, as we have made during the past year have been largely in this direction. We have endeavored to stifle the filthy smells from Hunters Point and from parts of our own city, which day and night poison the air breathed by those who are constantly exposed to it.

We are seeking an improved plan for disposing of the stable manure in this city. What this means in the crowded tenement house quarters may be better imagined than described.

We have examined and reported at headquarters regularly as to the condition of the streets, and we are engaged in inspecting the low lodging-houses with the view of obtaining

information and remedies for the dangers and abuses which unfortunately abound among the most shiftless part of our population.

With all this, it must be remembered that we are but a voluntary Association, clothed with no official power, and that the influence exerted by us is moral, backed as we are by the approval and support of the large mass of intelligent citizens.

It will be observed from the figures given that members recommend about two-thirds of the whole number of applicants for relief.

Of the sum distributed in actual relief, that given in kind, through the Depot, and in other ways, amounts to \$20,049.56. Nearly \$6,000, however, have been expended on persons not recommended by members, but who have been discovered by the Agents of the Association under various circumstances.

One object which has constantly been kept in view, is to counteract, as far as possible, improper legislation in connection with the poor, as well as to prevent interference by special legislation with the powers of the Board of Health. To protect the poor from improper legislation appears to be a very important feature of our work ; nor are we less interested in obtaining and advocating remedial legislation when required.

The correspondence with the Mayor (page 36) shows how far we were prepared to take action in support of the authorities in the event of an outbreak of cholera or other epidemic during the past Summer.

On the whole, we feel confident that the new departure of this Association is a wise and wholesome one ; and we trust that sufficient support will be given to us, both moral and financial, to enable us the better to grapple with the constantly increasing evils of Tenement House Life.

HENRY E. PELLEW, *President.*

October, 1885.

## GENERAL AGENT'S REPORT.

*October, 1885.*

SIR :

THE Forty-Second Year of the work of the Association has just closed without supplying much matter for special comment.

It is naturally difficult in reviewing the operations for each twelve months to find material for permanent record. The poor we have always with us, and the demands upon the Association continue to be made in all seasons and by all classes in the community. The regular routine of relief, which is the result of acquired experience, has gone on unchanged. Each case exhibits individual features which might afford food for remark, while experience shows the necessity of special study and adapting the relief to individual needs. This has ever been the aim of the Association, which has sought to avoid wholesale methods of administering charity.

The Visitors have been more than usually efficient in the discharge of their grave and onerous duties and their efficiency has improved with time.

The slow but steady increase in business confidence has naturally benefited the employing class, who have consequently not been idle to as great extent as formerly. It is to be hoped that on this account there will be no more than the usual amount of destitution during the coming year, and that no extraordinary demands will be necessitated upon the always ready generosity of our citizens.

The precautions taken by the health and street cleaning authorities, to anticipate the possible advent of cholera, have been rewarded by a remarkable diminution in sickness and mortality during the past summer, and it is to be hoped that their efforts will be continued even if cholera should not visit our shores.

The recent outbreak of smallpox is a standing menace to the metropolis and imposes on our citizens the duty of constant vigilance,

The sanitary work of the Association has been extended, as will appear by the report of the Sanitary Agent.

ABSTRACT OF RELIEF *for the Year ending Sept. 30th, 1885.*

|   | Families.      | Persons.    | Amounts.          |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1884.   | October.....   | 245 .....   | \$959 55          |
|   | November.....  | 355 .....   | 928 61            |
|   | December.....  | 696 .....   | 2,304 70          |
| 1885.   | January.....   | 1,299 ..... | 3,909 86          |
|   | February,..... | 1,729 ..... | 5,242 73          |
|   | March .....    | 1,162 ..... | 2,555 05          |
|   | April.....     | 849 .....   | 1,096 26          |
|   | May.....       | 661 .....   | 697 92            |
|   | June.....      | 624 .....   | 681 45            |
|   | July.....      | 615 .....   | 556 54            |
|   | August.....    | 534 .....   | 416 88            |
|   | September....  | 569 .....   | 700 01            |
|   |                |             | <hr/> \$20,049 56 |
| Number separate families relieved.....                  |                |             | 8,997             |
| Families as recorded by months.....                     |                |             | 9,338             |
| " relieved for two or more months .....                 |                |             | 341               |
| Number meals furnished during the year.....             |                |             | 4,838             |
| " lodgings " " " .....                                  |                |             | 1,795             |
| " personal visits at the homes of the poor .....        |                |             | 10,131            |
| " families who did not call for full amount relief..... |                |             | 288               |
| " false addresses .....                                 |                |             | 283               |
| " frauds exposed .....                                  |                |             | 117               |

NUMBER OF MEALS AND LODGINGS *furnished by Orders on Lodging Houses, Year ending Sept. 30th, 1885.*

|       | Meals.          | Lodgings.   | Amount.        |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1884. | October.....    | 269 .....   | \$27 37        |
|       | November.....   | 484 .....   | 79 27          |
|       | December.....   | 809 .....   | 119 13         |
| 1885. | January.....    | 1,052 ..... | 134 05         |
|       | February.....   | 128 .....   | 17 60          |
|       | March .....     | 464 .....   | 72 35          |
|       | April.....      | 240 .....   | 39 20          |
|       | May.....        | 313 .....   | 42 63          |
|       | June.....       | 227 .....   | 34 95          |
|       | July .....      | 303 .....   | 39 69          |
|       | August.....     | 278 .....   | 48 04          |
|       | September ..... | 271 .....   | 52 85          |
|       | <hr/> 4,838     | <hr/> 1,795 | <hr/> \$707 13 |

TABLE showing the Source of Families Referred to the NEW YORK  
 ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR by  
 its Members and kindred Societies, the description of relief given, and  
 the amount of the same, for the fiscal Year ending September 30th,  
 1885.

STATEMENT showing particulars of the Expenditure of \$6,000 appropriated for the Relief of the Poor, by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York, to the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, April, 1884. (Not included in last year's Report).

Number of Tickets issued for Groceries, Coal and Shoes, of the several values undermentioned.

| G R O C E R I E S . |            |             |           |           |          | Amounts expended in each month. |                             |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Dollars.          | 2 Dollars. | 1½ Dollars. | 1 Dollar. | 50 Cents. | Coal.    | Shoes.                          |                             |
| ..                  | ..         | 1           | 308       | 252       | \$ 16 25 | \$ 34 35                        | 1884. April..... \$486 10   |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | 80        | 196       | 7 50     | 73 90                           | May..... 259 40             |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | 80        | 116       | 2 50     | 62 65                           | June..... 203 15            |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | 144       | 143       | 1 25     | 91 05                           | July..... 309 80            |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | ..        | ..        | ..       | 69 00                           | August..... 207 00          |
| ..                  | 1          | ..          | 72        | 132       | ..       | ..                              | September... 292 90         |
| 1                   | ..         | 2           | 105       | 228       | ..       | 67 90                           | October... 49 00            |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | 53        | ..        | ..       | ..                              | November... 121 90          |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | 167       | 43        | 70 00    | 380 40                          | December... 251 80          |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | ..        | 418       | ..       | ..                              | 1885. January..... 1,311 50 |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | ..        | ..        | 300 00   | 378 00                          | February.... 506 45         |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | 598       | 71        | ..       | ..                              | February.... 1,552 95       |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | ..        | 693       | 257      | ..                              | ..                          |
| ..                  | ..         | ..          | ..        | ..        | ..       | ..                              | Total.... \$6,000 00        |
| 1                   | 1          | 3           | 2,718     | 1,438     | \$847 50 | \$1,766 00                      |                             |

OCCUPATIONS of some of those to whom Relief was given during the year.

|                       |    |                      |     |
|-----------------------|----|----------------------|-----|
| Agents.....           | 13 | Druggists.....       | 7   |
| Artists.....          | 4  | Draughtsmen .....    | 2   |
| Auctioneers.....      | 2  | Dentist.....         | 1   |
| Architect.....        | 1  | Engineers.....       | 21  |
| Awningmakers.....     | 2  | Editor.....          | 1   |
| Bakers.....           | 30 | Engravers.....       | 3   |
| Boxmakers.....        | 13 | Elocutionist.....    | 1   |
| Bookkeepers.....      | 18 | Fruitcanners.....    | 2   |
| Bookbinders.....      | 6  | Framemakers.....     | 2   |
| Bookfolders.....      | 5  | Featherworkers.....  | 5   |
| Boilermakers.....     | 7  | Firemen.....         | 7   |
| Bricklayers.....      | 10 | Flowermakers.....    | 6   |
| Barbers.....          | 5  | Furriers.....        | 2   |
| Brushmakers.....      | 3  | Framers.....         | 7   |
| Butchers.....         | 10 | Farmer.....          | 1   |
| Blacksmiths.....      | 23 | Fanmaker.....        | 1   |
| Bartenders.....       | 8  | Goldbeaters.....     | 3   |
| Brassfitters.....     | 12 | Glaziers.....        | 2   |
| Buttonholemakers..... | 4  | Gilders.....         | 4   |
| Billposters.....      | 1  | Gardeners.....       | 4   |
| Brewers.....          | 2  | Grooms.....          | 4   |
| Buttonmakers.....     | 2  | Grocers.....         | 3   |
| Bonesorter.....       | 1  | Hatters.....         | 6   |
| Clerks.....           | 82 | Hodcarriers.....     | 6   |
| Clergymen.....        | 5  | Hairdressers.....    | 3   |
| Cigarmakers.....      | 28 | Harnessmakers.....   | 4   |
| Cooks.....            | 49 | Hairpickers.....     | 1   |
| Carvers.....          | 2  | Ironworkers.....     | 16  |
| Clockmakers.....      | 1  | Janitors .....       | 9   |
| Coffeesorters.....    | 2  | Junkmen.....         | 6   |
| Coopers.....          | 6  | Jewelers.....        | 4   |
| Conductors.....       | 3  | Knitters.....        | 3   |
| Carpenters.....       | 55 | Leatherworkers.....  | 4   |
| Carpetsewers.....     | 7  | Laborers.....        | 545 |
| Cabinetmakers.....    | 21 | Longshoremen .....   | 79  |
| Coachmen .....        | 19 | Laundresses.....     | 26  |
| Carriagemakers.....   | 4  | Locksmiths .....     | 3   |
| Cheesemaker.....      | 1  | Lathers .....        | 2   |
| Capmaker.....         | 7  | Lawyers .....        | 4   |
| Caulker.....          | 5  | Lettercarriers.....  | 1   |
| Coppersmith .....     | 3  | Lampmakers .....     | 2   |
| Copyist.....          | 3  | Lithographers .....  | 2   |
| Combmaker.....        | 1  | Milliners.....       | 5   |
| Corsetmaker.....      | 1  | Musicians .....      | 9   |
| Candlemaker.....      | 1  | Machinists .....     | 26  |
| Canvassers .....      | 17 | Marblecutters .....  | 3   |
| Confectioners.....    | 5  | Marblecleaners ..... | 2   |
| Compositors.....      | 3  | Masons .....         | 16  |
| Collectors.....       | 2  | Moulders .....       | 13  |
| Dressmakers .....     | 39 | Millwright .....     | 1   |
| Drivers .....         | 63 | Mirrormaker .....    | 1   |
| Dyers .....           | 1  | Millers .....        | 2   |

|                     |     |                             |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| Messengers.....     | 3   | Seamen .....                | 18  |
| Nurses.....         | 34  | Steamfitters.....           | 9   |
| Newsdealers .....   | 7   | Sawyers .....               | 10  |
| Nickelplaters ..... | 2   | Salesmen .....              | 23  |
| Not stated.....     | 256 | Saddlers .....              | 1   |
| Organist .. .       | 1   | Servants .....              | 35  |
| Organ Grinders..... | 2   | Shoecutters .....           | 2   |
| Peddlers.....       | 93  | Shademakers.....            | 1   |
| Plumbers.....       | 7   | Saleswomen .....            | 5   |
| Painters.....       | 86  | Stewards.....               | 8   |
| Paperhangers .....  | 4   | Scissorgrinders .....       | 1   |
| Packers.....        | 10  | Stationers.....             | 1   |
| Porters .....       | 41  | Soapmakers.....             | 1   |
| Printers .....      | 36  | Truckdrivers .....          | 24  |
| Polishers.....      | 9   | Tinworkers .....            | 15  |
| Plasterers.....     | 13  | Teachers .....              | 13  |
| Physicians .....    | 5   | Tobaccostrippers .....      | 8   |
| Pressfeeders.....   | 1   | Tailors .....               | 67  |
| Pipemakers .....    | 2   | Trunkmakers .....           | 3   |
| Pianomakers.....    | 8   | Typesetters .....           | 2   |
| Photographers ..... | 3   | Trapezeperformer .....      | 1   |
| Pavers .....        | 2   | Upholsterers .....          | 12  |
| Patternmakers.....  | 2   | Umbrellamakers .....        | 5   |
| Papersorters .....  | 1   | Undertakers .....           | 1   |
| Quiltmakers .....   | 4   | Varnishers .....            | 19  |
| Roofers .....       | 9   | Weavers .....               | 9   |
| Ragsorters .....    | 8   | Washers and Scrubbers ..... | 656 |
| Ropemakers .....    | 1   | Watchmen .....              | 12  |
| Riggers .....       | 2   | Woolsorters .....           | 3   |
| Ragpickers .....    | 5   | Waiters .....               | 64  |
| Stonecutters .....  | 16  | Woodturners .....           | 4   |
| Seamstresses .....  | 389 | Watchmakers .....           | 3   |
| Shoemakers .....    | 63  | Weighers .....              | 2   |

Very respectfully,

JOHN BOWNE, General Agent.

HENRY E. PELLEW, Esq.,  
President.

#### MEDICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

NEW YORK, October, 1885.

Again are we called upon to recite the story of the sick and suffering poor of New York, a story fraught with great interest and full of pathos. The few cases recorded here give but a vague idea of how they manage to exist in their unsanitary dwellings. We cannot measure the subtle mischief caused by an insufficient supply of fresh air, or done by that which is foul and exhausted. Next in importance to air, and equally with it a necessity of life and condition of health, is water. As some author has said, "The greater the aggregation of unwashed human masses, the more horrible must be the resulting atmospheric impurity." This leads us to say something on baths and bathing. There are eleven public baths in this city open

during the summer months and all well patronized. During the season of 1884 these baths were patronized by 3,164,785 people; of which 2,182,074 were females, and 982,711 males. The people who patronize these baths are chiefly of the tenement house class, who have no facilities for bathing at home. The city could well afford to maintain hot baths during the winter months; it would still further enforce cleanliness among the people, and this habit of cleanliness would tend all round in their homes and daily surroundings. Washing draws a train of wholesomeness behind it, besides producing a sensation and sentiment of healthiness. The sanitary sense should be carefully cultivated in the minds of the young, and we might then hope, by a ready obedience to the reasonable laws of health, to attain at last that "harmony of the moral nature" which is the end and aim of all true sanitary science. Here are a few of the many cases which have come under our notice during the last year:

In a dingy attic room on Clark St., Mrs. T——, her husband and two children live. Mrs. T. was in the last stages of consumption, helped on a great deal by worry. Her husband, a sullen, churlish fellow, spent all his earnings in drink, and refused to the very last to help his wife even to a cup of cold water. Her oldest daughter Ida, a bright little girl of twelve years of age, whom I attended last year for typhoid fever, was untiring in her devotion to her poor mother, and to the very last moment staid by her bedside doing what she could. Mrs. T. at last succumbed to the fatal disease, the husband even at the time of her death being under the influence of drink. Family assisted with groceries and coal, and delicacies sent from time to time to Mrs. T., also medicine. The children are now being cared for.

Mr. and Mrs. R——, Hudson St., 2 children. This family occupy a small attic room. At the time of my visit the only articles in the room were an old mattress without any covering, a rickety chair and a broken lamp. Mr. R. was out of work and Mrs. R. was quite ill. This Association procured them bed and bedding and other furniture, besides supplying them with groceries and coal from time to time, also medicine. The husband is now working and the world seems brighter to them than before.

Mr. and Mrs. B——, Bleecker St. Husband was at one time a wealthy broker on Wall St., but through the roguery and cheater of his partner lost everything. Losing everything, he was forced to take a position as car conductor, but received a fall one day which crippled him considerably, and shortly afterwards was stricken with apoplexy. At the time I saw him he had received a third stroke and lingered on for a few months, not knowing any one, and at last succumbed. His wife, an educated lady, earned a little money as copyist. Relieved from time to time with coal and groceries, and

rent was paid for them. Medicines were also supplied. This is one of many similar cases.

Mrs. V——, Greene St. Herself and child occupy a dreary attic room, very barely furnished. Mrs. V's husband is sick with consumption in Charity Hospital. She was ill several weeks with pneumonia. During that time her rent was paid and groceries and coal supplied; also medicines. She is now getting along well.

The following are the diseases and injuries which have been treated by me for the Association during the past year:

Asthma, apoplexy, bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, Bright's disease of the kidneys, bilious colic, bilious headache, carbuncles, conjunctivitis, convulsions, cyanosis, cholera infantum, chlorosis, chilblains, catarrh nasal, cancer of breast, colic, coryza, diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, diphtheria, dental fever, erysipelas, epilepsy, enuresis, enteritis, eczema of ear, fistula in ano, felon, fibro-cystic tumor of uterus, furuncles, general debility, haemoptysis, haemorrhoids, inflammation of bowels, jaundice, laryngitis, leucorrhœa, mammitis, miscarriages, metritis, malaria, measles, mitral regurgitation of heart, migraine, nervousness, neuralgia, ophthalmia, pelvic peritonitis, phthisis, paresis, pharyngitis, paralysis, pneumonia, pleurisy, psoriasis, prolapsus uteri, palpitation of heart, phlegmasia dolens, rheumatism acute and chronic, remittent fever, rachitis, syphilis, scald of arm, scarlet fever, sciatica, salt rheum, sprains of wrist, ankle and back, scrofula, tonsillitis, thrush, torpidity of colon, ulcerated sore throat, varicose veins, worms, whooping cough, wounds of different parts of the body. Medicines were supplied to all these cases by the Association, and where needed delicacies were sent. Accouchments were also attended by me.

Typhus fever existed in a number of houses in the city, but was promptly stamped out by the Board of Health before it procured a strong foothold.

That insidious and dread disease, pneumonia, claimed many victims the past winter, it being almost epidemic in its character. During the first two weeks of March the mortality was very great, there being 291 deaths recorded from pneumonia alone, while in 1884 the number of deaths from pneumonia for the whole month was only 156.

We are thankful to record that the fell disease, cholera, has been kept from our shores, and long may it be a stranger to us.

The number of deaths recorded at the Bureau of Vital Statistics for the first nine months of the years 1884 and 1885 are given below, the death rate of this year exceeding that of last.

|       | Total<br>Zymotic<br>Diseases. | Total<br>Constitutional<br>Diseases. | Total<br>Local<br>Diseases. | Total<br>Developmental<br>Diseases. | Deaths<br>by<br>Violence. | Whole<br>Total. |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1884. | 7256.....                     | 6116.....                            | 10,922.....                 | 1762.....                           | 1043.....                 | 27,099          |
| 1885. | 7759.....                     | 6210.....                            | 22,379.....                 | 1601.....                           | 1037.....                 | 28,986          |

*W. G. Macdonald, M.D.*

## SANITARY AGENT'S REPORT.

SIR:—I beg leave to submit herewith my report on the work of the Sanitary Department, for the ten months ending October 1st, 1885.

On the first day of December, 1884, the Sanitary Department of this Association began its work. It is the outcome of a union of the Sanitary Reform Society and the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, by which the Sanitary work of the former and the Tenement House Inspection of the latter, have been merged in a single department with a "Sanitary Agent" in charge.

As the work of either Society before the consolidation, may not be known to some of the members of the other, a sketch of the efforts made by them in various directions, to improve the public health, will be given under its proper heading in the report of the work of the Department.

*Tenement House Inspection.*

During the ten months there have been 951 complaints of nuisances received at the office from all classes of citizens, and from various workers among the poor. Premises are examined as soon as possible after the receipt of the complaint, and if good cause of action is found, a complaint is made out in duplicate and immediately forwarded to the proper City Department. On return of one of these complaints stating the action of the Department, the premises are again inspected and every effort made to have the nuisance abated promptly, by appealing either to the owner or to the Department.

About 30 per cent. of the complaints received have been found on inspection to be founded on no just cause for further action and have therefore been closed out.

Owners or lessees are sometimes found who, rather than receive an order from the city authorities, agree to make all necessary repairs. In such cases the complaints are held for two weeks, at the expiration of which time, if the promise is not fulfilled, the case is reported to the proper Department.

Only 13.5 per cent. of the complaints have been thrown out by the authorities to whom they were made. That there are any rejected is accounted for, *1st*, by the abatement of the nuisance by the responsible party before the appearance of the public inspector. *2d*, by differences of opinion on the technical questions between the Association and the authorities. Oftentimes however, this difficulty is removed by personal interviews and explanations. The Board of Health has, as a rule, been regular in its returns of complaints made to it, the usual interval being from seven to ten days. In many

instances however, days have extended to months until, no reply being received, a second complaint has been sent in. The Association has been treated with great courtesy by the Board, and most friendly relations obtain at the present time. The Building Department has not returned any complaints, although a second visit from the Association's Inspector generally finds the nuisance abated. The following table shows the work of this branch of the department:

TABLE.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Total Complaints received.....                      | 951 |
| No violations on inspection.....                    | 317 |
| Complaints forwarded to authorities.....            | 547 |
| Complaints held on promises to abate.....           | 83  |
| Nuisances abated without appeal to authorities..... | 57  |
| Orders of authorities complied with.....            | 310 |
| "    "    not complied with.....                    | 88  |
| Complaints waiting action of authorities.....       | 80  |
| "    "    out for inspection.....                   | 15  |
| "    "    re-inspection.....                        | 175 |

## CITY DEPARTMENT RECORD.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Forwarded to Departments.....                    | 547 |
| Returns endorsed "good cause for complaint"..... | 393 |
| "    "    "no cause for complaint".....          | 74  |
| No returns.....                                  | 80  |
| 547  |     |

## CLASSIFICATION OF COMPLAINTS.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Water Closets.....           | 80  |
| Roof leaks.....              | 57  |
| Cellars.....                 | 65  |
| No Fire Escapes.....         | 4   |
| Unsafe Buildings.....        | 45  |
| Offensive Trades.....        | 5   |
| Pipes Not Ventilated.....    | 25  |
| Dirty Premises.....          | 73  |
| Bad Plumbing.....            | 88  |
| Want of Water.....           | 25  |
| Privy Vaults.....            | 120 |
| Yards.....                   | 46  |
| No Traps.....                | 14  |
| Cellar Dwellings.....        | 10  |
| School Sinks.....            | 7   |
| Fire Escapes Obstructed..... | 13  |
| Smoky Chimneys.....          | 10  |
| Miscellaneous.....           | 11  |
| 698                          |     |

## RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Inspections.....          | 936 |
| First Re-Inspections..... | 462 |
| Second     ".....         | 87  |
| Third     ".....          | 11  |
| Fourth     ".....         | 1   |
| 1497                      |     |

DIAGRAM showing the relation between the number of Complaints and the Population of each Ward. The outer *heavy line* shows the total number of complaints. The inner *heavy line* shows number of those complaints complied with. A comparison of the two lines, for a given ward, shows the comparative ease with which sanitary improvements were obtained in that ward. The *light line* shows the number of complaints to each 1000 of the population. The Seventh ward will be seen to be most prolific in complaints.

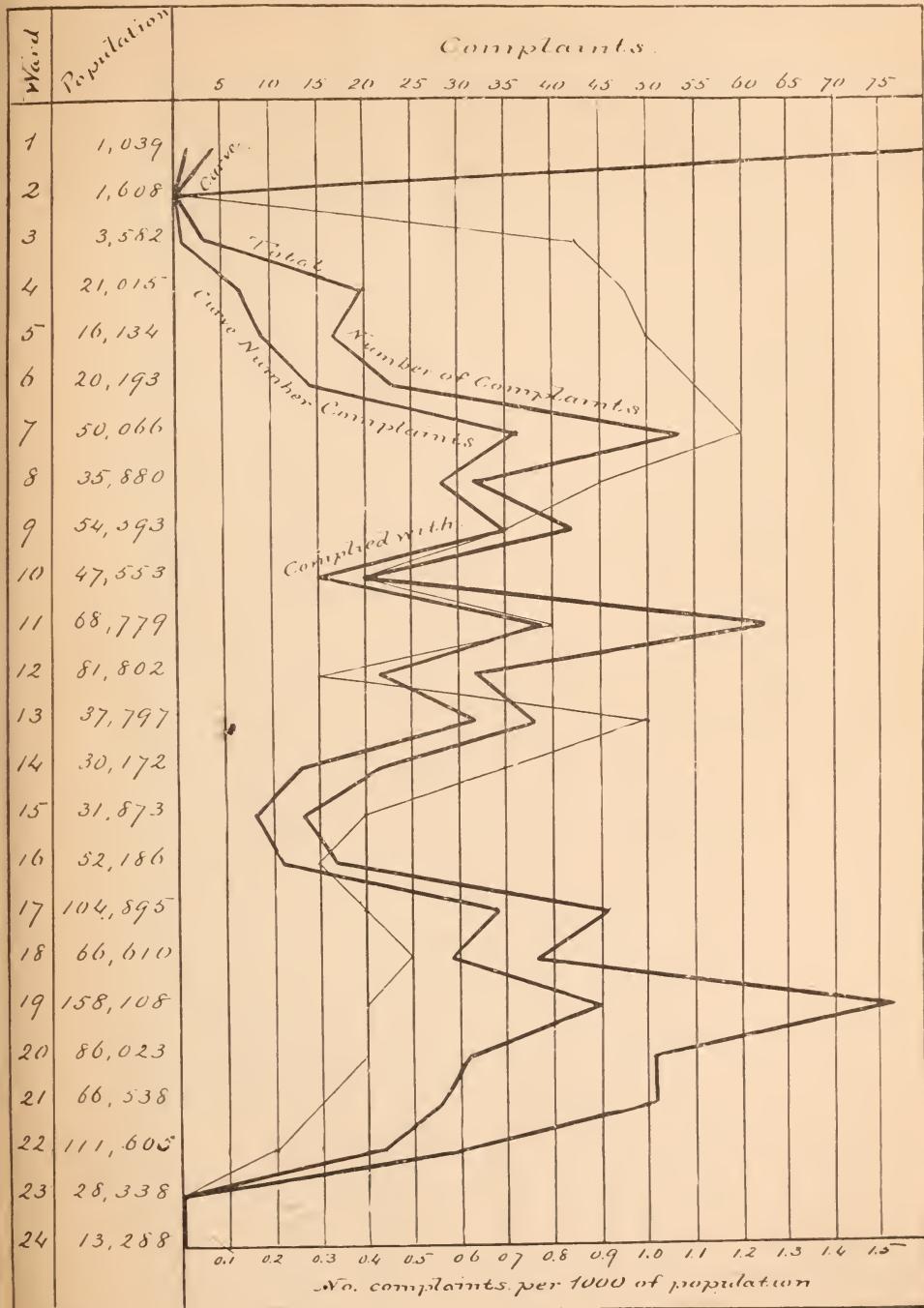


TABLE SHOWING DELAY IN ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 1885.

| LOCATION.                               | COMPLAINT.  | INSPECTED BY ASSOCIATION.   | Forwarded to Health Department. | Reply of Health Department.        | Last Inspection by Association. | Nuisance Condition.           |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| — Norfolk Street.<br>— Pitt Street.     | Basement flooded during storms.<br>Roof leaks. Weather boards back<br>and sides need repairs. Scuttle leaks.<br>Privy vault close to house and<br>very offensive. | Dec. 30. '84<br>Feb. 5. '85 | Jany. 3. '85<br>Feb. 10.        | Good cause for<br>complaint.<br>do | Oct. 26. '85<br>Oct. 26.        | Nuisance<br>not abated.<br>do |
| — Roosevelt Street.                     | No water above first floor. Roof<br>leaks. Privy and cellar foul.   | Mar. 21.                    | Mar. 25.                        | do                                 | Oct. 9.                         | do                            |
| — Monroe Street.                        | Roof leaks badly. Skylight bro-<br>ken. Yard and cellar dirty.  | Mar. 23.                    | Mar. 25.                        | do                                 | Oct. 10.                        | do                            |
| — Madison Street.                       | Water Closet, second flight, has<br>no water. Skylight broken. Yard,<br>rear base set area and water closets dirty.   | Mar. 23.                    | Mar. 25.                        | do                                 | Oct. 10.                        | do                            |
| — Bleecker Street.                      | Privy vault very foul.<br>Sinks not trapped. Soil pipe used<br>as rain leader. No flush for upper<br>water closet.  | Apr. 6.                     | Apr. 6.                         | do                                 | Sept. 30.                       | do                            |
| — First Avenue.<br>— New Church Street. | Rags in cellar and cellar wet.<br>Yard and house dirty.   | Apr. 25.<br>May 3.          | Apr. 28.<br>May 14.             | do                                 | Oct. 15.<br>Oct. 26.            | do<br>do                      |
| — Mott Street.                          | Privy full. Yard uneven. Sinks<br>not trapped. Waste Pipe not venti-<br>lated. Roof leaks.  | June 2.                     | June 13.                        | do                                 | Oct. 22.                        | do                            |
| — Franklin Street.                      | No flush for upper water closet.<br>Rain Leader broken. Three water<br>closets for 16 families. Very foul.  | June 4.                     | June 13.                        | do                                 | Oct. 26.                        | do                            |
| — Second Street.<br>— Beach Street.     | Aug. 27.<br>Aug. 24.  | Sept. 1.<br>Sept. 1.        | do<br>do                        | Oct. 26.<br>Oct. 26.               | do<br>do                        |                               |

Although as stated above, the Health Department has at all times honored the complaints of the Association, it will be seen by the following Table that in a large number of cases there has been excessive delay in enforcing the sanitary laws, and this oftentimes when prompt abatement of the nuisance was imperative :—

*Hunters Point Nuisances.*

The first official recognition of the Hunters Point smells was probably in September, 1874, when Dr. E. H. Janes and Special Inspector Goldschmidt presented reports to the New York Board of Health, on the subject.

In November of the same year, so many complaints were made to the Board of Health of the offensive odors from Williamsburgh and Hunters Point, that the attention of the Boards of Health of Brooklyn and Long Island City was called to the above reports with a view to checking the evils therein described.

The nuisances gradually grew worse instead of better, and no attempts having been made by the authorities to abate them, the Sanitary Reform Society, in January, 1881, drew up a petition to Governor Cornell, calling his attention to "the noisome and offensive smells brought into the city by winds and other natural causes," from the Long Island shore, and praying that the State Board of Health be required to make a thorough examination of that locality.

The petition was favorably received by the Governor, who immediately instructed the State Board to make the inquiry. The matter was referred by the Board to the Committee on Effluvium Nuisances, of which Dr. J. Savage Delavan was chairman, and the investigation was carried on in New York. To aid the Commissioners in their work, the Society addressed circular letters to the signers of the petition, asking them for any information that would lead to the detection of the guilty parties.

As it was decided to give the press every facility for obtaining the results of the inquiry, the hearings that were given to all who were interested, on February 23d and 26th, 1881, and each Saturday thereafter, were open to the public. The hall of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor was placed at the disposal of the Commission, who, in addition to their method of inquiry, employed experts to study the methods of manufacture in use among the creators of the nuisances.

After all the volunteer testimony had been obtained, it was decided to make a personal inspection of all the "sources and places" of the nuisances along the banks of Newtown Creek and vicinity, which was accordingly done on March 26th.

"Ample evidence for the basis of a positive report" was found by the Commission, and on the 22d of April the formal report of the State Board, which had been submitted to the Governor on the 18th inst., was forwarded by him to the Senate, and ordered printed.

Immediately following the presentation of the report, the Governor issued a proclamation threatening to proclaim the manufactures of kerosene, fertilizers, &c., about Newtown Creek, public nuisances, unless steps were taken by the owners to render them less dangerous to the public health.

Little or no attention having been paid to this proclamation by the manufacturers, the State Board of Health, on August 10th, addressed resolutions to the Governor, requesting him "to close at once, all the oil refineries and other establishments on or near Newtown Creek, that permit sludge acid, sludge tar or any other offensive refuse to run into the Creek or on the neighboring grounds, or allow offensive odors to escape from the same," until they made such improvements in their methods as would be satisfactory to the Board. The names of the offending individuals were also furnished the Governor.

Still nothing was done, and the offensive odors continued to be discharged from Hunters Point, when the Sanitary Reform Society addressed a letter to the State Board asking the cause of this delay, and also for any suggestions of steps that might be taken by private individuals to aid the authorities.

The Secretary of the Board wrote in reply, that of the seventy odd manufacturers to whom the Governor's proclamation had been sent, only three stills continued their old methods, and these three positively refused to make any change. He further stated, that the investigations of the Board had developed the fact that there were other sources of offensive odors than those recognized in the citizen's memorial, which would be proceeded against as soon as the Governor's attention should be called to it by private individuals.

For some unaccountable reason, the Governor failed to compel the offenders to abate their nuisances, and the law governing the State Board was not broad enough to allow that body to act for itself.

The Boards of Health of New York, Long Island City and Brooklyn, appeared no more anxious to abate the nuisances than the Governor, and the latter Board, in spite of the proclamation, and a strong public opinion, "permitted a large cargo of sludge to be landed nearly opposite the old manure dumps, there to be manipulated by steam, &c., to recover sulphuric acid."

On the 24th of September, the Governor at last ordered the premises of the offenders to be "closed, cleansed and kept free of the materials and offenses mentioned, and also the punishment of the owners for misdemeanors." These orders covered the entire district "from the East River to Blissville, on both sides of the Creek, and to Penny Bridge on the Brooklyn side."

One of the results of the Governor's order, was a written guarantee from "the twelve great refineries of petroleum, in Kings and Queens Counties near Newtown Creek and the East River," that everything should be done to prevent "the delivery into the atmosphere of any offensive smoke, vapors and other stenches." And furthermore, "the entire premises, every line of drainage, trapping and control of the prevention of exposure to the atmosphere, or outflowing into the tide-water of offensive waste material," were placed in the hands of the State Board, and frequent inspection by that body earnestly requested by the owners.

Although this was the action of the large refineries, there were other manufacturers who still persisted in disregarding the Governor's orders, and it was therefore deemed necessary to employ inspectors who should make daily reports, with a view of obtaining evidence that would lead to the conviction and punishment of the guilty parties.

Sufficient evidence was soon obtained to warrant the arrests of offenders, who at this time, did not exceed 25 per cent. of the number that had to be contended with in the outset.

In 1883, the nuisances again became so great that Governor Cleveland's aid was invoked by the citizens of New York, and an order was obtained from him requiring such changes in the methods of manufacture, as would prevent the discharge of foul stenches into the atmosphere.

The State Board of Health, as in 1881, employed inspectors to report on the condition of the offending establishments. Seven were found to be as bad as during the former agitation, and of these, two were found to be openly violating the Governor's orders.

Previous to this inspection, the agent of the Sanitary Reform Society had reported a like condition of affairs.

Again in May, 1884, the Society caused an inspection of Hunters Point and Newtown Creek to be made, which resulted in the discovery of thirteen establishments where serious nuisances existed, the worst of which being John Kehoe's fat boiling house and Benjamin Rosenzweig's offal rendering works.

The Society became convinced from this, that action was again necessary, and resolved "to confer with the proper authorities with a view to the speedy suppression of these vile nuisances and the punishment of the offenders."

That the Society was not alone in desiring reform was shown by the letters of prominent citizens whose views were asked in the matter.

In June, the Society addressed a letter to the Governor stating the facts and asking that prompt measures be taken for the punishment of the willful violators of his orders.

To satisfy himself of the correctness of these statements, the Governor ordered another examination by the State Board, which reported no violations except from one establishment on Furman's Island.

About this time the first complaint from Dr. Seaman, chief of staff, Charity Hospital, on Blackwells Island, was received.

In September the Society again made an examination, which showed no material change for the better.

It having been suggested to the State Board, by Dr. Kramer, that a night inspection might be fruitful of results, Inspector Hollick made a night examination of the region about Newtown Creek, and reported that although much improvement was noticeable, the old offenders were using practically the same methods and generating the same offensive odors.

During last winter and spring, numerous complaints having been received from the Charity Hospital on Blackwells Island, a visit was made on July 15th, to Dr. Seaman, Chief of Staff, to obtain from him, if possible, the details of the offensive odors afflicting the Island. An inspection of the wharves east of Long Island City showed large quantities of crude oil floating on the water and giving off very offensive smells. Again, on the 20th of July, another inspection showed everything seemingly in good order. It was, however, learned that while the mud flats exposed at low water are one of the greatest causes of the foul smells during the day, at night certain practises are indulged in by the factories that probably cause the sickening odors at that time. The whole question of these manufactories at Hunters Point has been again taken up by the Association, and will be carefully studied during the coming year, with the hope that the complete abatement of the nuisance may be obtained.

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*Disposal of Manure.*

The great number of horses in any large city makes the question of how to dispose of the enormous quantity of manure, which is constantly accumulating, without creating a nuisance and without detriment to the public health, a matter of much importance. The problem is a comparatively simple one for inland cities or for those in which the transition from urban to suburban is almost imperceptible; but with New York, the case is entirely different, and the problem by no means easy to solve. Surrounded as the city is by navigable waters, it becomes a matter of considerable expense to provide for the regular removal of the production, as either lighters and tugs or sailing vessels are a necessity. The additional expense of handling the manure in this way requires that a higher price shall be paid by the consumer than would be the case if the material could be dumped on board cars which would at regular intervals be taken to depots established through the surrounding country. The price which the farmers must pay for the manure restricts the demand to the least possible amount necessary to enrich the soil and to those seasons of the year when ready money enables them to pay cash. This intermittent demand makes necessary (if manure is to be regarded as a merchantable article) the storing of the production for longer or shorter periods, either at the point of production or consumption. As the former is central in this case, it is much safer financially to store it in the immediate vicinity of the city or in the city itself, ready to be shipped to any point on demand. This latter is what is actually done; great heaps being kept for months within the city limits, which are constantly giving forth the ever increasing and offensive odors that are the natural companions of this kind of decaying organic matter.

From time to time complaints have been made against these

"dumps," more particularly the one situated on the East River at the foot of 46th Street, owned by Michael Kane.

Some idea of the magnitude of the "manure business" may be had from the following approximate statement:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| No. public and private stables.....         | 10,000    |
| No. horses in city .....                    | 100,000   |
| Average production per horse per month..... | 0.43 tons |
| Total production per annum .....            | 516,000 " |

COST PER TON TO CONTRACTORS.

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Haulage in city .....          | 0.75      |
| Manure by contract .....       | 0.17      |
| Rents and other expenses ..... | 0.25      |
|                                | —         |
| Sold at, say .....             | 1.17      |
|                                | 1.50      |
| Profit per ton .....           | 0.33      |
| 516,000 tons at \$1.50.....    | \$774,000 |
| Total net profit .....         | \$170,280 |

The proportion of this profit which goes to the various persons interested in the business, are as follows:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Michael Kane.....                            | 50 per cent. |
| Long Island Land Fertilizing Company .....   | 10 "         |
| Michael McGarr.....                          | 10 "         |
| Edward Tague.....                            | 10 "         |
| Other North River men .....                  | 10 "         |
| Carroll Smith and other East River men ..... | 10 "         |
|  | —            |
| 100  | "            |

Although the Sanitary Code (see sections 112, 113) recognizes the removal of manure as a possible source of nuisance and provides for its control, a bill was introduced in the Legislature in 1881 authorizing the Board of Health to set apart certain places on the East River front between 42d and 98th streets for the temporary deposit of manure. The bill was opposed by the Sanitary Reform Society, on the ground: 1st. That the two existing dumps within the limited area were owned by Kane, who would then obtain a monopoly of the business. 2d. That the provisions of the Sanitary Code completely covered the ground as far as the Board of Health was concerned. 3d. That the temporary deposit of manure was to be condemned as being exceedingly offensive and detrimental to the public health; and 4th. That the word "temporary" not being defined, there was practically no limit of time for the removal of the manure. In short, the whole bill was in the interest of a certain contractor, and that man was Michael Kane.

Owing to the efforts of the Society, the bill failed to become

a law during that session ; but in February, 1884, identically the same bill was introduced, which, in spite of the efforts of the Society, became a law, with the amendment, however, of leaving the Board of Health free to designate dumping places along the river fronts.

As it was extremely desirable to learn from the Board of Health what methods of collecting and disposing of manure were employed prior to the passage of the bill, a letter was addressed to the secretary of the Board asking for the desired information. The substance of the reply was that the Board realized the fact that storage of manure during warm weather was objectionable, but that accumulations were allowed in winter, as the ice in the rivers prevented a regular removal from the city limits. That the bill would make no change in the Board's treatment of the business ; but that there had been "a persistent defiance by some parties engaged in the manure business, of all sanitary regulations on this subject." On May 23d, and again on June 18th, an inspection of Kane's dump disclosed nothing that was objectionable beyond the fact that even the temporary deposit of manure within the city limits was not conducive to public health.

Nothing further was done in this direction until last winter, when the residents of Beekman Hill, haying in vain urged the Board of Health to take vigorous action against Kane, carried the matter to the Grand Jury, with the gratifying results that are so well known. The unfortunate experience with the present method of removing manure from the city made it evident at once that radical changes should be speedily made. In order, therefore, to obtain the opinions of stablemen and like interested parties, a circular letter asking some half dozen leading questions was sent to the more prominent stablemen and also to manure dealers. The drift of the replies which were in many instances very full, was that the manure was removed by yearly contracts, and that very little inconvenience was experienced except by those having dealings with Michael Kane. The results of an extended examination into the subject, with the conclusions drawn from them, were embodied in the following report, which was sent to Senator Robb, who had asked information in regard to the matter to meet the statements of certain stablemen who were at Albany during March, 1885, with a view to legislation which should more effectually regulate the disposal of manure :—

HON J. HAMPDEN ROBB,  
Senate Chamber.

DEAR SIR : At the request of Mr. James Gallatin. I send you the results of our inquiry into the question of manure disposal in New York, and the conclusions that have been reached in the matter.

The mass of the manure is disposed of by one of two methods, which, for the sake of clearness, may be called the BARGE and CAR systems.

The "barge system" consists in dumping the manure brought on carts from the stables, on board scows, which, as soon as loaded, are taken in tow and carried up along the Jersey and Long Island shores, where they are discharged on docks within easy reach of farmers.

The "car system" consists in dumping the manure into cars standing on barges, which, when loaded, are towed to the yard of some railroad company by whom they are shipped to various points in the suburbs, and from which it is taken in small quantities by farmers and market gardeners.

Under these two systems there are several arrangements between producer and consumer, the four most important of which are as follows :

1st. The private stables, containing not more than four or five horses, are dependent on contractors whose carts come around at very irregular intervals, causing at times great inconvenience and serious nuisance by the overflowing of the vaults. In this case, the owner of the horses pays for the removal of the manure, as the quantity is comparatively small, and being usually mixed with large quantities of straw, is not in a great demand by consumers. Many stables of this class have arrangements with small market gardeners on the outskirts of the city, but the general testimony is that the service is very uncertain and unsatisfactory.

2d. That the smaller livery and sales stables have contracts by the year with "manure men," by which the removal is either without charge, the contractor making what he can from the sales, or a small sum per ton is paid by the stablemen. This manure is more pure than the preceding, but still contains a considerable amount of straw. The result is that it does not pay the contractor to send his carts till some farmer has been found who is willing to take the manure, in consequence of which large quantities have often to be stored in confined spaces, and rotting, becomes very offensive.

3d. The large livery and sales stables, and some of the car and omnibus stables, also have contracts, usually running a year, by which the contractor pays a stipulated sum per horse, and is held to a regular removal. This manure being comparatively free from straw, is always in demand by farmers and brings good prices.

4th. A number of car and other stables have formed themselves into an association for the removal and sale of their own manure. Each stable of the association carts its material to a dock on the river front, where it is dumped into flat cars on barges kept constantly in waiting by the contractor, whose jurisdiction begins at that point. He pays a certain amount per ton, and has contracts with a railroad company by which the manure is carried to distant points or depots in the country, where it is sold to farmers. By this arrangement the total production of the 6,000 horses belonging to the Association, from two o'clock of one day, is entirely beyond the city limits by six o'clock the next evening, without inconvenience and without creating a nuisance. The only complete and efficient removal on a large scale at present, seems to be accomplished by

this corporation, although there are one or two smaller contractors who do equally well.

The "car system" works well, and no complaints are made of it, while on the other hand the "barge system" is entirely inefficient and has been the cause of the present agitation.

The principal excuse made for the uncertain removal by the "barge system," is the fact that there are periods in the year when it is impossible to dispose of it.

The manure year is divided into four seasons :

1st. From December to February. Although there is a demand by the farmers during these months, the ice in the rivers and creeks makes it impossible for the scows to reach the small docks along the shore where the manure is most readily disposed of.

2d. From February to May the manure can be promptly removed, as the absence of ice enables the scows to reach their destination, and supply the then existing demand.

3d. From May to August the farmers are tending their crops, and therefore have no use for manure.

4th. From August to December there is again a demand by the farmers, and the absence of ice makes it possible to rapidly remove the daily production.

From this it will be seen that there is a demand for nine months in the year, while the ice during the winter months only admits of that demand being supplied during six months. This makes two periods of three months each when manure must be stored somewhere, and is the excuse given by Michael Kane for the existence of the pile which has recently caused so much excitement. All this difficulty is the natural consequence of the "barge system," and disappears when the method of removal is similar to that employed by the manure association.

The activity of the stablemen during this last winter has been primarily caused by the injunction obtained by the Beekman Hill ladies against piling manure within the city limits, the contractors asserting that as long as ice remained in the river, it was impossible for them to dispose of the material as it was produced, and as they were forbidden to store it in "dumps," the stablemen must performe take care of it on their own premises.

The Sanitary Code of the Health Department gives the Board full power in the matter, as may be seen by the enclosed cuttings, (see page 30) and the whole difficulty could have been removed by the serving of orders on stables requiring them to clean them within a specified time. This, however, the Board failed to do. Such action would have put the stablemen to some expense, which they naturally wished to avoid, hence their great anxiety to obtain legislation which should place the responsibility on others. Then again, if the contractors under the "barge system" were forced to remove the manure constantly from the dumps, and at the same time take the daily production from the stables, it would considerably reduce their profits as, by holding the stock, they could to a certain extent

control the market. This, it is thought, explains Kane's great efforts to secure the passage of the "manure bill" during the session 1883-4, which in its original form (see page 33), would have allowed the storing of manure on the east water front when the two existing dumps were owned by himself and his brother, the one at Forty-Sixth street and the other at Ninety-Sixth street.

It is said that Kane lost \$30,000 by being obliged to dispose of his manure pile without waiting for higher spring prices. Whether this sum was a total loss, or whether his profits were reduced by this amount is uncertain, but from figures that will be given further on, it is probable that the latter was the case. The man to whom Kane sold this manure paid seventy-five cents a ton delivered on his barges carrying flat cars which, as soon as loaded, were carried by the railroad company into Pennsylvania, where it was stored in dumps and held for higher prices. This is only cited to show that even with the present system, manure may be removed rapidly and constantly, and yet yield a profit to the contractor.

If stables were obliged to transport their manure to the dumps at their own cost, contractors could readily be found to take it at these points, and remove it regularly, while the demand for carts would immediately create a supply.

The bottom of the whole difficulty lies in the fact that both stablemen and contractors strive to make all the money they can out of the manure while the public suffer the consequences.

It has been suggested that the removal of manure being as much the duty of the City Government as the disposal of offal and dead animals, a bill should be introduced in the Legislature which would place the whole matter in the hands of the Street Cleaning Department, where bids should be received from responsible private parties, and covering sections of the city. In opposition to this it is held that the keeping of horses being a private enterprise, it would be unconstitutional for the city to step in and break up a legitimate source of revenue to the stable men. Others, who do not own horses assert that, owing to political jobbery, a change of this kind would be jumping from the frying-pan into the fire. With the majority of people who have been interviewed, health is lost sight of in vested interest.

From the fact that manure is constantly being removed by certain parties without offense, and that those parties find their methods a financial success, and from the fact that most of the recent trouble has been caused by the desire of two or three contractors to make all the money they possibly could—our Association has arrived at the conclusion that the solution of the problem lies with the Board of Health; that there is the power which should be looked to for relief instead of the Legislature, and that it should be severely censured should it fail to exert the great powers that it possesses.

Appended is a report of the baling process for manure.

Very respectfully,

*Frederick N. Owen,  
Sanitary Agent.*

*SECTIONS OF THE SANITARY CODE of the Board of Health of the Health Department of the City of New York, bearing on the subject of Manure disposal.*

"*Section 87.* That no . . . manure, . . . shall be by any person flung or allowed to run or drop into or remain in any street or public place, except as herein elsewhere specified; nor shall the same be thrown or allowed to fall or run into the North or East river, save through the proper underground connection."

"*Section 100.* That every owner, lessee, tenant, and occupant of any stall, stable, or apartment in which any horse, cattle, or swine, or any other animal shall be kept, or of any place in which manure or any liquid discharge of such animals shall collect or accumulate, within the built-up portion of said city, shall cause said liquid and manure to be at once removed to some proper place, and shall at all times keep or cause to be kept such stalls, stables and apartments, and the drainage, yard and appurtenances thereof, in a cleanly and wholesome condition, so that no offensive smell detrimental to health shall be allowed to escape therefrom; and when within three hundred feet of any occupied dwelling house, or of any manufactory where more than five persons are employed, the removals from the stables shall not be made, nor shall the manure or refuse from the stable be allowed to remain on any street or place near such stable, any time between 8 o'clock A. M. and 11 o'clock P. M., without a permit from this Board. Every such stall, stable or apartment, where horses or cattle are kept, shall have an underground and properly covered manure vault of not less than sixty-four cubic feet capacity. But the Sanitary Superintendent is authorized to issue permits to be regularly reported to this Board, regulating such removal within said hours."

"*Section 104.* That no person shall engage in the business . . . of transporting manure, . . . or any offensive or other noxious substance, or in driving any cart for such purpose, in the City of New York (except the persons acting under the Street Cleaning Commissioners or the contractor for cleaning the streets, and as this Department may provide), until he shall have first received a permit from this Department of such form and effect as the regulations of the Board shall provide, authorizing such persons so to engage.

"*Section 105.* That every cart and other vehicle hereafter constructed for or engaged about any business, or intended to be loaded with any matter or substance in the last section mentioned, shall be constructed according to this Code, and to the regulations and orders of the Board of Health of the Health Department.

"*Section 106.* That no cart or other vehicle for carrying . . . any manure, or other nauseous or offensive substance, shall, without necessity therefor, stand or remain, nor shall a needless number gather before or near any building, place of business, or other premises where any person may be; nor shall any such cart or

vehicle occupy an unreasonable length of time in loading or unloading, or in passing along any street or through any inhabited place or ground; nor shall any such cart or vehicle, or the driver thereof, or anything authorized, shall interfere therewith, or with the contents thereof.

*"Section 107.* That all carts and vehicles in the last section mentioned, and boxes, tubs and receptacles thereon, in which any substance in said section referred to may be, or be carried, shall be strong and tight, and the sides shall be so high above the load or contents that no part of such contents or load shall fall, leak, or spill therefrom; and that when, in the opinion of this Board, it is necessary to prevent the contents of such carts or vehicles, tubs or boxes, or receptacles from being offensive, each of such carts, tubs and boxes, and receptacles shall be adequately and tightly covered, as the orders or regulations of this Department may provide or direct.

*"Section 108.* That no driver of such cart or vehicle, nor any person having undertaken or being engaged about the loading or unloading thereof, nor person engaged about the cleaning or emptying, or having undertaken to empty or remove any manure, . . . or any noxious or offensive substance, shall do or permit to be done about the same, or in connection therewith, that which shall be needlessly offensive or filthy in respect to any person, street, place, building or premises.

*"Section 109.* That no person shall allow (and it shall be the duty of every contractor and person who has ordered or procured, or is having any of the following articles carried, or who is driving the same, to prevent) any cart or vehicle to be so fully loaded, or being in such bad condition of repair, or of such faulty construction, or being so improperly driven or managed, that any offensive liquid, or any manure, . . . shall fall upon or in any place, street, or premises; and it shall be the duty of every such person to at once replace on such vehicle and remove what has so fallen."

*"Section 112.* That no pile or deposit of manure, . . . shall be made within the built-up portions of the City of New York, or upon any open space inclosed within any portions thereof, or upon the piers, docks or bulkheads adjacent thereto, or upon any open grounds near (or upon any vessel or scow other than those to be speedily, and according to the duty of any person, removed, lying at) any such pier, wharf, or bulkhead, except according to a resolution of this Board specially authorizing the same, and a permit obtained from this department, and according to its regulations. And no person shall contribute to the making of any such accumulations. Nor shall any straw, hay, or other substance which has been used as bedding for animals, be placed or dried upon any street, or sidewalk, or roof of any building, nor shall any straw, hay, or other substance, or the contents of any mattress or bed, be deposited or burnt, nor shall accumulation thereof be made within two hundred feet of any street, without a permit from this Board.

*"Section 113.* That no pile or deposit of manure . . . shall be made within three hundred feet of any church or place of worship, nor within the limits of said city within three hundred feet of any inhabited dwelling, nor shall any person or corporation unload, discharge, or put upon or along the line of any railroad, street, or highway, or public place within said city, any manure, . . . within three hundred feet of any inhabited dwelling; nor shall cars or flats loaded with or having in or upon them any such substance or substances be allowed to remain or stand on or along any railroad, street, or highway within the limits of said city within three hundred feet of any inhabited dwelling."

*"Section 127.* That no person shall obstruct, delay, or interfere with the proper and free use, for the purposes for which they may be and should be set apart and devoted, of any dock, pier, or bulkhead set apart for the use of any contractor or person engaged in removing any offal, garbage, rubbish, dirt, dead animal, night-soil, or other like substances, or with the proper performance of such contracts."

*"Section 130.* That no ship, boat, or other vessel or article, shall be taken or allowed by any person to come into or lay to, or at, or within any dock, pier, bulkhead, or slip, or be placed thereon for the purpose of the shipment or removal of any offal, garbage, rubbish, blood or offensive animal or vegetable matter, dirt or dead animals, or for the use of any contractor about the removal of any of the foregoing substances, without a permit from this Department."

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*Report on the Baling of Manure.*

79 FOURTH AVENUE, February 26th, 1885.

*F. R. Sturgis, M. D.:*

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request I send you the result of my visit to Ryerson & Brown's livery stables, situated in Forty-fifth street, where manure is at present being baled for transportation.

The stable contains 130 horses, with an average daily output of 2.6 tons of manure.

Two men are employed to clean the stalls and floors in the early morning, and send the manure, mixed with varying proportions of straw, through chutes to the front cellar. This work occupies them till about nine o'clock. The eight hours of the working day that remain are occupied in baling and storing the bales in the rear of the stable.

The press is of the ordinary lever pattern, manufactured by the Hercules Lion Jack Company, of Irvington, N. J., and turns out a bale about 4 by 3 ft. by 18 inches, weighing about 240 lbs., accord-

ing to the proportion of straw. The two men are able to make 24 bales per day.

The stable has a contract with some farmers in Westchester County, who report that the baled manure will keep for six weeks or two months without burning. If this is true, one of the most serious objections to baling has been removed.

I was unable to obtain any details of cost; but assuming the men receive \$2.00 per day, the cost of baling, (exclusive of interest on press, and wear and tear, which cannot exceed \$8.00 per annum), would be \$1.53 per ton.

Yours truly,

*Frederick N. Owen.*

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[Chapter 278, Laws of 1884.]

Passed May 12th.

AN ACT—To provide for the proper removal of stable manure from the City of New York.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Board of Health of the City of New York is hereby authorized to designate and set apart on the water-front on the east side of the City of New York, one or more places of sufficient size for the temporary deposit of stable manure, north of Forty-Second Street.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

The following: “and south of Ninety-Eighth Street, until such time as it can be removed from the city, at the least possible cost to the citizens thereof,” was in the bill originally.

The Sanitary Reform Society tried to defeat this bill, and would probably have succeeded if General Shaler, the President of the Board of Health, had not telegraphed to the Governor that he had no objection to it, and thereupon Governor Cleveland signed it May 12, 1884. Before the close of the year, Michael Kane was indicted for maintaining a nuisance, and the Board was censured by the Grand Jury for permitting it.

*Lodging-House Inspection.*

During an examination of a building in City Hall Place, in July last, a small lodging-house with accommodations for fourteen persons was found in the basement. It was 14 x 20 feet, and was divided in two parts by a partition across the house, the front being the lodging-room and the rear used by the proprietor as bed-room, sitting-room and kitchen. The floor rested directly on the ground, and being in addition several feet below the level of the sidewalk, was very damp, the moisture penetrating the boards in some places. There was no ventilation at night, as both front and rear doors were closed. The atmosphere of such a place can better be imagined than described. The Board of Health permit allowed six lodgers, while the proprietor admitted that he accommodated twelve. This, in addition to a somewhat similar case in Oliver street, suggested the necessity for an examination of the small lodging houses in the city, and an inspector was placed at work with printed blanks to be filled out for each case. The questions on these blanks covered the air space, means of ventilation, closet accommodation, lighting, cleanliness, number of lodgers allowed and number of lodgers actually using the room. Up to October 1st, there have been forty-four of the houses or parts of houses examined, all of them having accommodations for more than is allowed by law, and fourteen, or over thirty per cent., in operation without permits from the Board of Health. The inspector has letters to the captains of all police precincts, and a night inspection of each will be made when the weather is cooler and the houses are in demand. It is proposed to make a formal complaint to the Board of Health and urge on it the necessity of more careful supervision of this class of lodgings. As the inspection is still in progress, the full report and tabulation of the returns will not be presented till the next Annual Report.

*Street Inspection.*

With the possible advent of cholera to this city, the question as to the condition of the streets immediately presented itself and it was decided to make a complete inspection of every street on Manhattan Island. The months of June, July and August were occupied by a special inspector in covering the city, and duplicates of the daily reports were at once forwarded to the Mayor, who expressed great interest in the work and ordered that the complaints, as they were received, be sent immediately to the proper Departments. The appended map, prepared from the returns, shows at a glance the comparative cleanliness of the city. Above Twenty-Third Street the complaints were mostly against building materials obstructing gutters contrary to law, while below that they were against filth allowed to accumulate. On the whole, the condition of the streets

was very much better than was expected, and better than it had been for some years previous.

The following points were brought out very strongly by the inspection, viz.: :

1st. The spaces under the bridges across gutters are filthy in the extreme, being receptacles for all kinds of refuse which is washed in by the rains. The bridges, as a rule, are seldom lifted and cleaned, and in heavy rains often cause the flooding of adjoining cellars by damming up the water in the gutters. According to City Ordinance Sec. 419, permits must be obtained for the use of gutter bridges, and requires that they be taken up and the space beneath cleaned every Wednesday morning, and places the enforcement of its provisions on the police. It is needless to say, that part at least of this ordinance is a dead letter. In addition to its other objections, the gutter bridge allows wagons, drays, etc., to back across the sidewalk and force pedestrians to go out into the street, a proceeding which is always vexatious and sometimes dangerous, as all know who have ever attempted to reach any of our down-town ferries. We have the ordinance, why not enforce it?

2d. The condition of the pavements in some of the streets equals that of London in the sixteenth century. "Clean streets" and proper drainage are an impossibility under such conditions, or with such pavements, and the foul pools constantly discharging still fouler odors into the atmosphere present a most powerful factor in the production of disease. New York has yet to see a pavement fitted to the climate and the end it is intended to serve; but I venture to assert, if the trained minds of some of our best engineers in commission be brought to bear on the subject, such are the resources of engineering at the present time, that a pavement could be produced which would meet the requirements of the case.

3d. The third point brought out by the inspection was the storage of large quantities of decaying fruit and vegetables in boxes and barrels on the sidewalks, notably along West, Washington and Greenwich streets. These barrels are an inexhaustible mine to the street urchin, who works them vigorously and extracts therefrom many a delicate (?) morsel. The danger to the public health of such exposures cannot be denied. The Board of Health is to blame for allowing it to go on, and it should be held responsible.

#### *Disposal of Refuse.*

During last winter a bill was introduced in the Legislature (as it had been during the previous session) to regulate the removal of refuse of all kinds from the city. The bill was exceedingly objectionable in all its provisions, giving not only a monopoly of removing waste products to a company to be called the New York Refuse

Company, but practically allowing that company to carry on its business in its own way and without regard to sanitary laws. Among its provisions, for example, was one making it unlawful to use any other docks for dumping than those set apart for the company; another required the Dock Commissioners to set apart certain dumping places and forced the Street Cleaning Department to use the company's docks to the exclusion of all others. Scows belonging to other parties might lie at the dock, but those of the company were always to have the right of way. In view of the great evil that would result from the passage of this bill, it was strongly protested against by the Association, and a visit was made to Albany in the hope of bringing the true bearing of the bill before individual legislators. It was no doubt owing in part to the efforts of the Association that this most objectionable bill again failed to become a law. As it is possible that the measure may be brought up again this winter, it is hoped that the members of this Association will use all their personal influence to effect its final defeat.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

*Frederick N. Owen,*

*Sanitary Agent.*

HENRY E. PELLEW, Esq.,

*President.*

*October, 1885.*

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N. Y. ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR.

79 Fourth Avenue, New York, June 9th, 1885.

Hon. WM. R. GRACE, Mayor of the City of New York :

SIR : As there seem to be well founded apprehensions of a possible outbreak of the cholera in our city this summer, we feel it to be our duty at this time to assure you of our hearty desire and willingness to co-operate with you in such measures as you may deem wise to take, either with a view of warding off the pestilence or of mitigating the suffering and distress that must necessarily follow upon its appearance.

We propose to continue our daily reports to you in regard to the cleaning of the streets and the removal of ashes, garbage, &c., so long as such reports may assist you in supervising the work of the authorities charged with these duties.

If, in the course of the Tenement House Inspections made by the officers of our Sanitary Department, we find any premises in a condition unmistakably dangerous to life or health, we shall at once furnish you with full details, in addition to sending our usual notice to the Health Department.

We hope shortly to lay before you a clear and accurate description

of the misery and discomfort caused by the existence of certain vile nuisances situated principally at Hunters Point, and to ask your aid in our efforts to suppress them. On a number of hot nights last summer the windows of Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, which contain over one thousand patients, had to be closed to shut out the dreadful odors, a fact which we think of importance to bring to your notice.

During the investigation of the workings of the Health Department that you are about to undertake at the request of the Grand Jury, we shall gladly place the records of our Tenement House Inspection service at your disposal, and also assist you in any way that you may ask of us in your efforts to secure an increased efficiency of the Board of Health.

We are prepared to receive and from time to time account for any sums of money that may be placed at our disposal for the relief of families that may become impoverished from sickness or death. Our system of visitation and relief is the outgrowth of some forty years' experience, and we are fully prepared to disburse carefully and judiciously all such donations.

With great respect, I remain, sir,  
Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. PELLEW, *President.*

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#### WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE "SLUMS?"

It will be found on inquiry that as a general rule the inhabitants of the "Slums" are of foreign birth, whose standard of living is much below that of their more cleanly neighbors. The motives which usually induce people to try to keep their dwellings in good sanitary condition are two: 1st. To avoid the sense of discomfort caused by being surrounded by filth and dilapidation. 2d. To ward off the disease and death which follow upon the habitual disregard of sanitary precautions. In the case of the poor Italians, who may be taken as a typical class, the first motive seems to be entirely inoperative. Put them into clean quarters and in a few days they will be as badly off as ever. As to the second motive, it seems to be almost if not quite as great a failure, as a stimulus to better living. If they lose a child from typhoid fever they are much more ready to attribute it to the decree of Providence than to their own folly, and will rarely seek to avoid a repetition of the loss by securing a more wholesome dwelling. There are a certain number of individuals and families who, by want of means, would be sadly hampered in any efforts they might make to better their mode of life; but that this does not hold good of them as a class was clearly shown by what took place last year during the financial troubles. Bleecker Street was alive

with the denizens of the Italian quarter struggling to obtain entrance to the Bank for Savings to draw their deposits, which, they fancied, were in danger. These people showed themselves to be industrious and saving, qualities of the greatest benefit to society, but in this case brought to nought by the character of the motive. Their object in being industrious and saving is to lay by enough to enable them to return to Italy to live in squalor and idleness for the rest of their days. Aside from the ill effects of this mode of life upon the dwellers in the "slums" themselves, there remains for consideration the effects upon their neighbors. Much might be said on this point, but it will suffice in this connection to point out the obvious fact that the "slums" are centres of moral and physical contagion.

The question is often asked: "What shall be done with the Slums?" There is but one answer, and that is "Abolish them." How are we to abolish them? Simply by making them *unprofitable*. As long as people are to be found who are willing to live in this miserable fashion, and landlords are to be found who are willing and are permitted to have them do so, so long will these "Slums" exist. The State cannot bring moral influences to bear, that must be left to the missionary and the philanthropist; but it can insist that no premises shall be allowed to fall below a certain standard of sanitary condition on pain of vacation. If the sanitary laws were vigorously enforced the landlords would be put to so much expense in cleansing and repairing their property that they could not afford to retain dirty and destructive tenants. Such people would quickly find that they must either mend their manners, leave the city, or find themselves in the workhouse.

All this is based upon the maxim that the owner of anything must be held responsible for the use that he makes of it. The owner of a "Slum" should no more be permitted to derive an income from it than the owner of a disreputable house. I cannot see that sound morals makes any distinction between the two.

In conclusion, whatever temporary suffering and distress may be caused by the eviction of these people, the State is not bound to consider it, if, by a just, prompt and severe enforcement of the laws, it can save a more worthy class from the suffering and distress of disease and death. And thus the "Slums" will be abolished by bringing to bear upon their inhabitants, through the landlords, the pressure of a third incentive to cleanly living—the fear of *eviction for other causes than the non-payment of rent*.

JAMES GALLATIN.

NEW YORK, October, 1885.

## INCIDENTS AND EXPERIENCES.

R. H——, of Hudson St. A disabled sailor was found to be in a miserable condition in an attic room. We secured him a berth in the Sailor's Snug Harbor, and placed his eldest daughter in a family which kindly adopted her as one of their own. The youngest daughter we committed to the custody of the ladies of a nunnery. We likewise relieved the family with groceries and such other articles as they required to make them comfortable.

J. B—— and wife, of Mulberry St. The wife afflicted with consumption. When first seen she was about to be confined, and was attended through it. Gave her blankets, groceries, coal and some cash; also clothing for the baby. The society doctor attended her occasionally, and every attention was paid to her when sick, until she improved so that she was able to go out to do light work. She has three children, the oldest about eight years of age. Our last visit found them in a fair way of being self-supporting.

Mr. and Mrs. W——, of E. 13th St., with their five children, were placed under the care of the Society in a destitute condition. He had been employed in a coal yard, where he met with an accident, which resulted in cataracts forming in both eyes. His wife had assisted in making ends meet by doing odd jobs, but had to give up to devote her time to the sick man. The children were found half starved and poorly clad, and were at once given a supply of groceries, repeated upon three or four different occasions. The husband was sent to the hospital, where an operation was performed. The two elder boys were provided with coats, and work was obtained by a visitor for them in a factory. Two rooms were secured in a healthier locality at a less rent; a month's rent was paid, and the family comfortably settled. Upon the last visit was found a great change; the husband was out of the hospital, convalescent, and had great hopes of being able to work in two or three weeks. The wife, with her earnings, washing, and the wages paid her two boys, is not only doing well, but requires no more assistance. Her home, though scantily furnished, is clean and neat, and shows a mother's care. Their gratitude is unbounded, and it is certain that when the head of this deserving and respectable family obtains work, only some sad and unforeseen occurrence will again necessitate an appeal to our charity.

C. C—— and wife, Elizabeth St., Italians, and six children, oldest sixteen years of ago; once in good circumstances, having been a jeweler of good standing; out of work many months, were found very destitute. Gave three children boots to enable them to go to school, helped the family with groceries six times, and likewise gave

them a pair of blankets. By the aid and assistance of the Society, they are in an improved condition.

Case of J. and L. R——, Hudson St. Three children, one boy and two girls, youngest twelve months old. Wife quite sick. Husband, cigarmaker, out of work many months, had a furnished room on Watts St., but was dispossessed, as they were unable to pay rent. Her present illness is the result of the damp room in which she lived in Watts St. The attic room they now occupy in Hudson Street seems well ventilated. Rent, four dollars per month, unfurnished, one month of which was paid for them. An old, dirty, thin mattress, without any covering, and an ancient chair, constitute the entire furniture of the room. On this mattress, on the floor, lay Mrs. R——, suffering severely, a terrible picture of abject poverty. A kind neighbor had occasionally provided them with food. I immediately gave her a supply of groceries, coal, and a stove; prepared food for the little ones, and nourishing diet for the sick woman. Upon investigating the case, and finding it a deserving one, I bought her a bedstead, mattress, pillows, sheets, and a few necessary kitchen utensils; secured a woman to cleanse and scrub her room. I then provided the husband with boots to enable him to go in search of work. The last visit to them was very encouraging, as the husband had found work at \$4.50 per week, with promise of an increase. The wife had so far improved as to be about, and though not fully recovered from their poverty, are in a fair way of placing themselves beyond the aid of charity.

M. A—— and wife, and four children, of Baxter St., Italians, applied to us for aid; investigated their case, and found them deserving. On examining their room, 18x24, with corner partitioned off for husband and wife, we found it in such a squalid dirty condition as to be almost uninhabitable. Besides their own family of six, they had five men lodgers, rag-pickers, who slept on bunks. The gatherings from the streets of these five men we found in bags ranged along one side of the room, which had not seen soap or whitewash for years, we found them the regular type of Neapolitans, and our visitor found it necessary to hold out money inducement to prevail on them to use soap very freely, and likewise to whitewash occasionally with material supplied by the Society. Our visitor also succeeded in getting rags removed to shed, where they now take their daily gatherings for sorting. He was advised to keep fewer lodgers, which he has done, reducing their number to two. On each of the visitor's visits, which were frequent, she found a great improvement. The little girl of eight years has been placed in Juvenile Asylum, away from the evil influence of the house. Groceries on several occasions, with coal once, were given to the family, with boots to the father. By dint of determined perseverance our efforts to improve their cleanliness and mode of

living were crowned with success, consequently they are reported in confident hope of their not only being self-supporting, but with a desire to cleanliness.

M. L—, a widow of some refinement, with a daughter twelve years of age, lost her position as saleswoman during the dull times, applied for assistance through medium of a doctor. Our visitor found her in bed very ill, brought on by insufficient nourishment. It was found necessary to remove her to a more comfortable room, which was done by payment of one month's rent in advance. Her little girl was in an emaciated condition, and was supplied with such delicacies as to build up the system, followed by nourishing food. When able to move about shoes were provided for her and her child. The last visit found her preparing to go to Buffalo, in which place she had procured a situation. A letter from her has since been received, full of expressions of sincere gratitude for the timely aid extended by the Society, with a statement that she was in a fair way of doing well.

Mrs. H—, of E. 13th St., a hard-working, industrious widow, who gained a comfortable living for herself and three children by her needle, until sickness overtaking her. She lost her situation; the little money she had from time to time saved was soon spent, leaving herself and little ones in dire necessity. Her children, aged respectively 7, 12 and 18 years, were of no assistance to her, the elder, a daughter, having just married a man of no resources. The next, a son, was found to be quite incorrigible, and interfered seriously with his mother's recovery. With her consent he was placed in a training school, where he will be provided for for some time. After being supplied with fuel occasionally during the winter, and groceries, her window on ground floor was stocked with candy, wood and toys, and employment for her secured at vest binding at six cents each. She is now in a fair way of being self-supporting, and being a pushing little woman, there is no doubt her improvement will continue.

V. B—, of Cornelia St., with two children, was deserted by her husband in 1884. She struggled to maintain herself and children by washing and sewing, but was unsuccessful through her approaching sickness. Upon investigation her case was found to be a worthy one. One month's rent was paid, also assistance in the shape of groceries and coal on several occasions rendered. Her two children were placed in the Protectory during her confinement, which was provided for. When she recovered, through the assistance of influential ladies, a situation as wet nurse, at \$25 a month, was found for her. The children are still in the Protectory, and her rooms rented to a family, who take care of her baby. She is now quite able to take care of herself and little ones, and is thoroughly thankful for the aid extended her.

J. A—, of Little St., has been out of work for six months. His wife was found a sufferer from chronic rheumatism, with five

children, ranging from nine months to ten years of age, in very indigent circumstances. Gave them groceries and coal. The Society's physician attended them. The husband was a carpenter. Employment was obtained for him, and they are now in promising circumstances.

It is usually found that the worthy poor do not complain, and are not too demonstrative in their thanks for help rendered them. Where gratitude is lavish, and all the saints in the calendar appealed to to shower blessings on the donor of alms, one's suspicions should be aroused.

A good illustration of the difficulty of dealing with the poor without being deceived, may be found in the following case. While visiting in Washington Street, in search of applicants for city coal, we came across an apparently respectable woman and two grown up children, in the attic of an ancient building, dating back fifty years or more. The room was clean, though the single window in the slanting roof leaked constantly. There was no sash to the window in the hall just outside, and their cook stove gave but little warmth. The family had pawned their bedstead and slept on the floor, and the furniture was limited to a table and one or two chairs. The rent was five dollars, and if a tenth part of it was not forthcoming, expulsion was threatened. Though hardened by long experience, the visitor declared that this was a worthy case, and promised to send some relief. Returning some weeks later, the woman was found in the same state with a friend keeping her company. She said they had no food in the house, and relief was given. For this she seemed too grateful. We then determined to make further inquiries, and called upon the landlady who gave the family a good character. We next applied at the public school which the children were said to attend, and found that they were not known there. Returning to the woman and taxing her with deception on this point, she professed surprise, and showed me the children's school books in proof that they did go to school. A letter of inquiry to the principal brought the reply, that one child had been two days and the other only six days at school. A later visit to the family showed indications of drinking habits, and therefore we concluded that they were not worthy.

M. and J. B——, Mulberry St. Was found to be a very distressing case when brought to the notice of this Association. The wife was very weak for want of nourishing food, and in need of professional care during confinement, having added two boys to an already large family. Husband an invalid, could have work, but not able to do it. A son of nineteen had been idle two months, and had left home in search of employment. A girl of seventeen had no work, two girls thirteen and seven years, with the twins comprised the family. They only wished help temporarily, which was given.

I. and E. M——, Broome St. Is a German Protestant widow, an earnest, humble-minded Christian, "waiting and watching" for the final call of the Master. A daughter nineteen years of age sews, but times are hard with them. Rent much needed, coal and food not easy to get, landlord very kind, for they have been his tenants for five years. Two rooms excessively neat. Found worthy and assisted.

D. & M. F——, Elizabeth St. Was a touching case. A wife deserted by a merciless husband on the eve of confinement. Three girls, eldest only eleven years, who was acting as nurse and house-keeper when the visitor called, minding the babe of only a few days, with the air of an adept. The rooms were tidy. Found they had favor with the landlord, having been in the house eight years. They were in need of groceries, which were supplied.

I. & M. I——, Rivington St. Was helped two years ago. The husband was thrown out of employment in winter of '84. The wife procured sewing, but could only earn sixty-seven cents a day when work was flush, when it failed their case was desperate. Rent to pay and two children wanting bread. Again they appealed to the Association, and were tided over their troubles.

H. & E. H——, Cherry St. Man porter in the employ of one firm six years. Pierced his finger with a sail needle while in the discharge of his duties. He has suffered intensely for nearly two weeks, having it lanced thirty-four times in fifteen days, and now finds amputation necessary. Has occupied his present rooms five years. His wife's time was fully occupied in taking care of the wounded finger, two little children and her household cares. They only wished help for two weeks which was given.

Mary E——, Clinton Place. Lives in a dingy garret room, destitute of the humblest necessities of life. A little boy of four years is her companion. She has evidently seen better days, is well educated, having received a musical education, and is capable of teaching, but is destitute of clothing fit to appear in. She is now engaged in fur sewing for a dealer, who is merciless in his dealings with her, paying her a mere pittance for her labor.

Francis W——, E. Third street. Widower with four small children and infant of seven months. No work, no food, with helpless little ones and no mother. Such help as could be given was afforded. An advertisement inserted for a care taker for the children who soon appeared, and coming, saw and conquered, became in a few weeks a wife and mother to the family, carrying all to Paterson, N. J., where steady and remunerative work was found.

Thos. and Georgiana C——, Third avenue. American Protestant, wife and five children. When visitor called, the woman was reluctant to make her wants known, it being the first time they had

ever applied for assistance. Had parted with several articles of furniture to supply food for the children. Assisted them with coal and groceries, and shoes. The man secured a good position in a large flat house as engineer, \$50 per month, wife engaged as head laundress at \$9 per week, rent, gas and fuel free. They are now doing excellently well.

Winnie C—, W. 28th street. Widow with four small children. Sister came to live with her, and through their joint efforts they could keep the family together. They worked at straw sewing for some time, until the mother of the children was taken ill. When she recovered there was no work. Gave groceries and rent. The sister remarked that, "we are Americans and do not care to depend on charity and would rather help ourselves." They wished to leave the city, and through this Association they were enabled to do so. They have gone to Unionville, L. I., and are now doing well.

Lewis and Lizzie M—, E. 15th street. Three children; truck-driver having been thrown from the truck of which he was driver and injured one leg so that he was unable to do any kind of work for eight months, was in absolute distress, not knowing where to get food for his family. Assisted with rent three times, also assisted with groceries, shoes, coal, blankets and some sewing furnished her. While the case was under our notice the wife was confined, extra aid was then given in the way of clothing, delicacies, etc. Man has entirely recovered and secured permanent employment. Very thankful for the assistance rendered while in such extreme need.

Mrs. M. L—, Thomas St. Her husband was a drunkard and had deserted her for more than two years. She lived in a rear room, very clean and neat in its scantiness, but over a liquor place, because her rent was so much less there. One daughter was ill with pneumonia and pleurisy, and, as this daughter was the housekeeper and cook, the mother had been called away from her sewing machine to attend her sick child. The mother was an American; her record was good in her church and sabbath school, and she had been able to keep out of debt and pay their way until this long and severe sickness. When the daughter grew worse and worse, the mother put aside all earnings to take care of her, and soon the rent became due, the money was exhausted and the mother, in her sore extremity, applied for help. Coal was sent them, and a physician and medicines, and nourishing food provided. I never shall forget the expression of the wan, wasted face when I took some oranges and grapes to the fevered sufferer. The mother supports her family by making infants' fine dresses; putting in each nine tucks, wide embroidery at the hem, edging on yoke and sleeves, and finishing each garment complete, even to buttons and making the button-holes, and by beginning her machine sewing at 6 in the morning and sewing steadily until late at night, she is able to make a dozen

dresses, for which she is paid *one dollar and fifty cents a dozen!* The firm who paid her this munificent price also compelled her to buy her thread for them, paying the firm twenty-five cents for six spools, which she could buy elsewhere for fifteen cents. "Why do you not buy it at some other place then?" said I; and her answer was, "Because, they would say to me, 'I have no more work for you!' if I did." When the daughter recovered, a good situation was found for her in the country, where she gives perfect satisfaction and is very happy. The mother also had a place found for her (sewing on fine shirts) with another firm where the pay is much better, and the family are now in comfort and are very grateful and appreciative for their brighter surroundings.

J. C.—, and wife, Cherry St. The day was very cold and stormy when I visited this family. The couple were young, had one child, and the wife was sick in a wretched and tumble-down bed. Found her husband had been out of work for several months, and, the neighbors told me, "he spent his time mostly in the corner liquor saloon." The wife had taken in "sailors' washing" and was the sole support of the family. The man came in with a loaf of bread, and seeing me there stopped abashed and ashamed. The stove was broken and empty of fire, the room dark and untidy, the pretty little child hungry, cold and in rags. I saw that the man was discouraged and desperate, and I appealed to him and tried to express sympathy and kindly interest. "He had been drinking," he admitted, and I found he had not utterly lost all self-respect. He promised me to do better, and I really liked his generous and manly face. When I went again he was out "looking for work," his wife said, with a little quiver in her voice that told me she knew he was in the liquor saloon. Into that vile saw-dusty and wretched den on the corner I went, and found the man with five other bloated and ragged old tramps, playing cards. I talked kindly for half an hour to them all, and they listened in respectful silence, wiping away tears! J. C. followed me out, took hold of my hand, thanked me for "caring enough for him to look him up in such a hole," and as the tears ran down his face, promised me he would never enter that place again. I spoke to Mr. B., on Front St., who offered him work "if he would keep sober," and every day that I could, I dropped in to encourage and cheer him. His wife gained her health, and moved to Water St., a better locality for them, and at my suggestion, she kept her room neat and tidy, and her face brightened up at my advice and help. Two weeks later, passing the place in a hurry, J. C. saw me, came out sober and cleanly-clad, with a smile showed me the new shoes he had just bought for the pale wife and baby, and the money for the rent in his wallet; and said he, "God bless you ma'am, for your goodness to us. I'll drink no more!" with emphasis. And from that time until the summer, and I went away, he was sober and working heartily, paying his way and out of debt, and in very truth

a changed man. Perhaps the words of kindly interest, and the following him up and appealing to his manhood at the right time proved his salvation. We kept them comfortable in groceries, coal, &c., until the hard road began to brighten for them. They are now doing well.

Mrs. M. S——, widow, Bleecker St. A very nice woman with one little son. Had been employed in quilting the fine satin linings in seal-skin cloaks until last October, when a needle ran through her hand, breaking off in the fleshy part of her hand under the thumb. Suffering intense pain from it she could no longer work, or eat, or sleep, and began to sell her clothing, furniture, etc., and only applied for help when she found herself in great need and distress. When she came to our Association she had been twice to one hospital to be operated upon, and twice to another hospital, and though the surgeons had cut as deep as they dared without dissecting her hand, and although a physician had twice endeavored to find the needle, yet still it was imbedded in the bone and muscle of her hand. Her face and lips were perfectly white and bloodless, and there was danger of lockjaw or blood poisoning. She was fed nourishing food; beef, milk, eggs, etc., was supplied; coal and rent were paid, and when she gained a little strength, she was taken to —— Hospital. The surgeon there removed the needle, rusted, and in three pieces, and she soon became well again. Friends in Massachusetts wrote her, promising her a home and suitable employment. Her ticket was bought, and she was sent to them, and she has written several letters since her arrival there, expressive of her deepest gratitude, and her most fervent thanks.

Mrs. C. M——, Mott St. Husband is a drunkard, and both her children were very ill. She was crying, and the children were howling, and the room was without fire, and very filthy and unclean. I assured her that the children had only the measles, and sent for a basket of coal. Made a fire, heated some water, and put the little sufferers in a warm bath. They came all out in measles at once, and then with some gentle remedy I procured at the drug store, I soon had them in bed, asleep, and out of all danger. I told the mother that the dirt in the room would prevent me doing "anything to help her," and she at once went to work, washed the smeared and dingy window, blackened the stove, and cleaned the room. When I went again I found the place and the woman *clean*, and the children doing nicely. I insisted on a darkened room for their eyes, and when I praised her for her tidy room, the tears of joy ran down her pale face. She only needed a word of sympathy and kindness. I have been there many times since, and found her room clean and neat always.

Mrs. C. M——, Monroe St. A poor widow with a deep ulcer on her leg, and unable to walk. She had two delicate little children and was in a damp basement room, with the water standing on the

rat-eaten floor. She had been dispossessed, and had not a bed, or a chair, or a table, and I had to sit down on an inverted pail and look at the little ones lying on the damp floor, without even a straw bed under them. She had been a carpet-sewer, but had been sick and in hospital a long time, and when she had gathered her children and her little furniture and taken a room again and began to work, she had been laid aside by this abscess and was without medicine, food, or the bare necessities of life. A doctor was sent to her, a kind lady donated a bed and bedstead, another one sent her a table, a few chairs were bought for her, clothing was supplied them, food, coal and the room was made habitable, and before two months had passed the woman was again at work, and the little, delicate youngest child was sent to a "Home," and the family became happy and contented again. I never shall forget the look of utter misery on all these faces when I first saw them, and the change that a few weeks wrought in all of them.

Case of M. B——, and wife, Mangin St. Young married people with an empty, bare room (everything having been pawned), no bed or bedclothes, no fire, no food, and two little half-starved children, who devoured the bread I went out and bought like little famished wolves. The man had even pawned his coat, and the day was bitter cold. I sent the man to the wood yard, provided coal and food, sent a monthly nurse to the mother and needful clothing, paid the rent and made them comfortable and human again. The man was willing to do any kind of work, and I kept him in work until after the new baby came, and in four months from the day I first entered their cheerless and squalid room, the man had steady employment at driving a truck for a good firm, and they are in clean comfortable quarters. With these discouraged young people who assume married vows without knowing in any sense how to manage, a word of advice, kindly interest and a determined insistence on their doing thus and so, and a showing them what is best and wisest will almost always help them up and on.

Case of William and Ann C——, Cherry St. The man was a blacksmith and earned good wages once, and the room was clean and tidy. Some evidences of refinement in the chromos on the wall, the white clean cross-barred muslin curtains at the windows, and the neat little children. I saw at once that the man had Brights disease and dropsy, and I urged and implored him to go to a hospital, telling him its advantages, etc., etc. Why is it that our tenement house people so dread and abhor the hospital? It takes all the wife's care to look after her sick husband, and all earnings are stopped now, though she works in feathers "when he is able to have her." After many visits and much argument, the husband decided to go to the hospital (where he has since died), and after helping this really very interesting family over the winter, the wife obtained

work again (the coal and rent having been paid for them), and they are now in a fair way of being self-supporting and helpful.

Case of M. and T. F——, Clinton St. Found a nice German family. The mother sick with incipient diphtheria (to whom I sent a doctor and a nurse), and as the husband was out of work, and one little child with measles, I sent them coal and supplied their needs from the Association. When the family were all restored to health, secured them another room besides that damp dark basement, paid one month's rent and got them moved and settled. The wife obtained work and the husband was found employment, and they seem very grateful and are getting along nicely.

Case of Mrs. S. J——, and five children, widow. The woman is young and the children are all small. She has been brought up in a way far beyond her present surroundings, and seems to lack tact or management, having always depended upon her husband. Took her to an institution and all her children with her, in the country, where her own work and the care of other children will be some sort of an equivalent for the keeping of them all.

Case of J. H——. A little crippled boy, fatherless, and that I took from the hospital and sent to the country to a nice home, under the care of a good, motherly woman, where it is hoped that the fresh milk and cool country air may put some color into his wan little face, and restore a little vigor to his poor shrunken limbs.

Mrs. A. T——, widow, Eldridge St. A poor crippled German woman, who has a disabled and aged mother to support. She makes button holes for the tailor's, and after her room rent is paid has only three dollars left per week. Her old mother seventy-six years old, lying in bed and crippled from rheumatism, dresses dolls, at seven cents a doll, making the entire wardrobe of a doll, and often unable to sew for days from pain. They had both been sick with congested lungs, and were "behind in their rent," and a hard threatening landlord after them. Paid the rent and made them comfortable. They soon regained their health, and began again the same old daily struggle for bread.

Case of T. D——, East Thirty-Sixth St. This very interesting Swedish family, mother, and daughter fifteen years old, father dead and mother helpless almost from rheumatism, and utterly dependent upon the daughter's earnings. Secured the daughter a place to work, and for three years she has given complete satisfaction, but has never had a vacation during all the three years. This summer I saw the employer, and begged a week's respite from the shop for the girl, and also sent the poor old mother into the country for a week, feeble as she was. I then sent the hard worked girl away to Bath for a week, and paid the rent of the room to secure it for their return. We have provided shoes and some needful articles to the

daughter, as the wages she earns barely pays room rent and keeps her mother and herself. It is a very worthy family, and they are very grateful to the Association.

Case of Mrs. A. E——, Ninth Ave. This poor woman was suffering for four months before she came under our notice, with an internal cancer, and the husband seemed to have almost lost his mind also. The wife had supported the family for years; the children were dead, and the husband was hardly able to speak intelligently or to understand when spoken to. The disease of the woman being pronounced incurable, her consent was obtained to enter her as a patient in the hospital, and the doctors there were entreated to take her. They consented. A carriage was secured, necessary things for the woman were bought, and she was admitted in May. During my attendance upon her (several weeks), she always grateful, spoke of the great attention and kindness shown her. The husband was placed in an institution, and the family were kept very comfortably for many weeks, until all arrangements for their future needs could be perfected.

SUPPLY STORE.  
TABLE showing the Description and Quantity of Goods Purchased for Relief at Supply Store, Distribution and Stock on Hand, for the Year ending September 30, 1885.

| Articles.           | Purchased.  | Distributed. | Stock on Hand. | Relief Account.   |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| FARINACEOUS.        |             |              |                |   |
| Flour.....          | 27,227 lbs. | 27,227 lbs.  | ...            | Cost of Goods distributed.....\$6,739 87                  |
| Prepared Flour..... | 6,018 "     | 5,811 "      | 207 "          | Expenses.....\$ 82 84                                     |
| Oatmeal.....        | 5,000 "     | 5,000 "      | 357 "          | Salaries..... 799 99                                      |
| Hominy.....         | 2,950 "     | 2,593 "      | ..             | Sacks and Bags..... 74 68                                 |
| Corn Meal.....      | 500 "       | 500 "        | ..             | ..... \$957 51  |
| Beans.....          | 13,210 "    | 13,114 "     | 96 "           | .....   |
| Rice.....           | 8,944 "     | 8,040 "      | 904 "          | .....   |
| Corn Starch.....    | 1,775 "     | 1,470 "      | 305 "          | .....   |
| Soda Crackers.....  | 1,890 "     | 1,890 "      | ..             | .....   |
| Bread.....          | 3,487 lvs.  | 3,481 lvs.   | 6 lvs.         | .....   |
| GROCERIES.          |             |              |                | SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION.                                  |
| Sugar.....          | 8,318 lbs.  | 7,960 lbs.   | 358 lbs.       | 7,786 orders, each containing 10 articles.....7,860 prgs. |
| Tea.....            | 1,324 "     | 1,194 "      | 130 "          | 163 "   |
| Coffee.....         | 1,700 "     | 1,685 "      | 15 "           | 91 "  |
| Soap.....           | 11,660 "    | 8,019 "      | 3,641 "        | 2 "   |
| Pork.....           | 5,709 "     | 5,709 "      | ..             | 9 "   |
| Condensed Milk..... | 8,614 "     | 7,916 "      | 698 "          | Total Packages..... 80,183                                |
| Soup.....           | 2,990 "     | 2,990 "      | ..             | .   |
| Shoes.....          | 2,254 prs.  | 1,808 prs.   | 446 prs.       | Fleischman & Co.'s Yeast distributed, cakes..... 5,963    |

NEW YORK, September 30th, 1885.

I have examined the above Statement and the Books of Account of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and have compared the vouchers therefor, and find the same correct.

JAMES B. ELLIMAN, Auditor and Accountant.

## TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Dr. *The N. Y. Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, in account with Robert B. Minturn, Treasurer, C.R.*

|   |             |  |
|---|-------------|--|
| 1884—October 6.—To balance, as last account .....                           | \$ 1,461 34 | 1885—October 5.—By Cash received from Permanent Fund.....\$ 6,322 09 |
| 1885—October 5.—To Payments since October 6, 1884, by order of the Board... | 27,865 03   | By Donations and Collections since October 6, 1884..... 22,789 29    |
| To balance, Cash in hands of Treasurer.....                                 | 785 01      |  |
|   |             | <hr/>  |
|   | \$30,111 38 | \$30,111 38  |

NEW YORK, October 5, 1885.

(Signed,) \_\_\_\_\_

R. B. MINTURN, *Treasurer.*

1885—October 5.—By balance forward..... \$785 01

I have examined the above account and find it to be correct.

JAMES B. ELLIMAN, *Auditor and Accountant.*

## TENEMENT HOUSE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Dr. *The N. Y. Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, in account with Robert B. Minturn, Treasurer, C.R.*

|  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| 1885—September 24.—To Payments since October 6, 1884, by order of the Board. | \$279 08 | 1884—October 6.—By balance, as last account..... \$373 99      |
| To balance, forward... . . . .   | 389 91   | 1885—Sept. 24.—By Donations since last Annual Report, 295 00   |
|  |          | <hr/>  |
|  | \$668 99 | \$668 99   |
|  |          | <hr/>  |
|  |          | 1885—Sept. 24.—By balance cash in hands of Treasurer, \$389 91 |

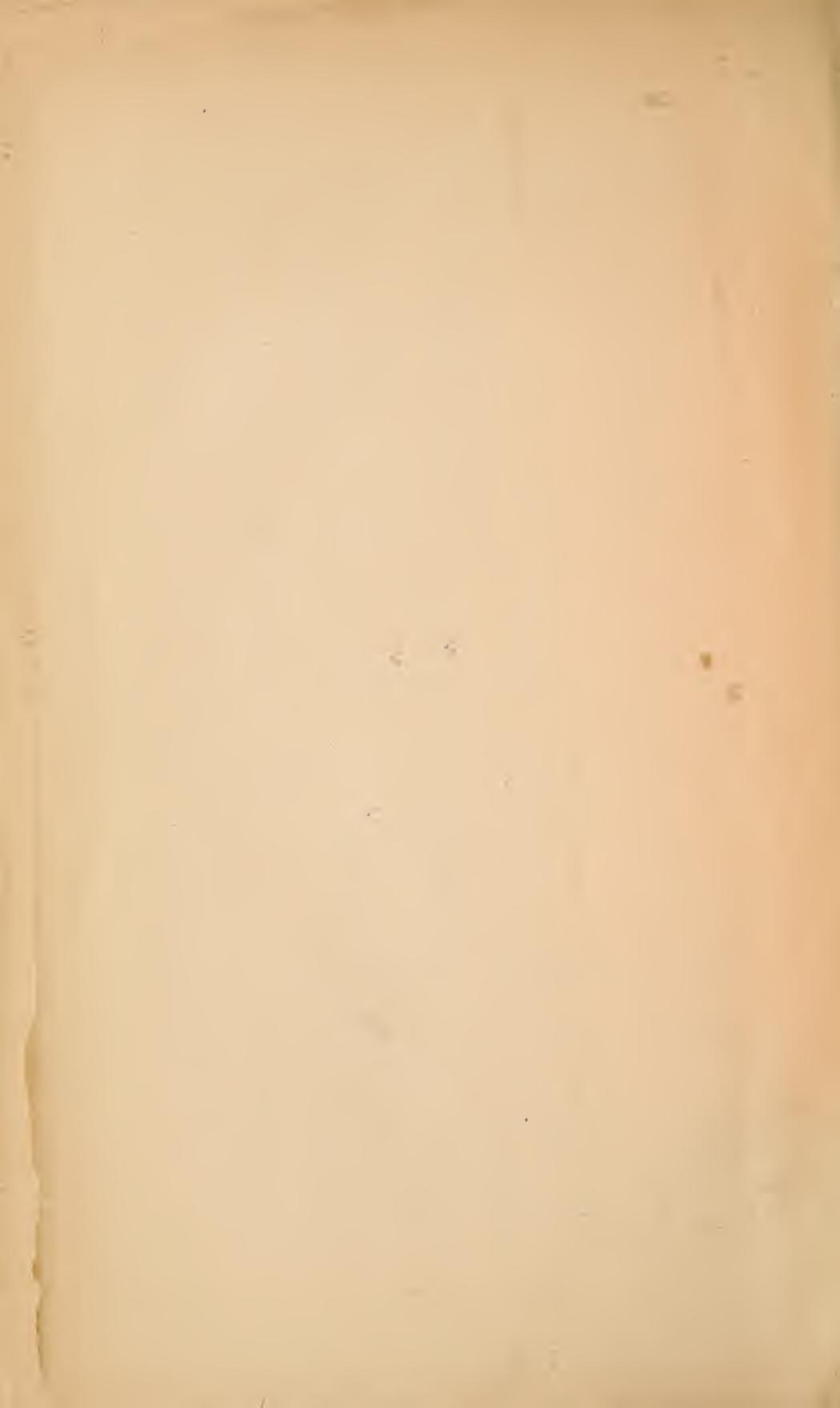
NEW YORK, September 24, 1885.

(Signed,) \_\_\_\_\_

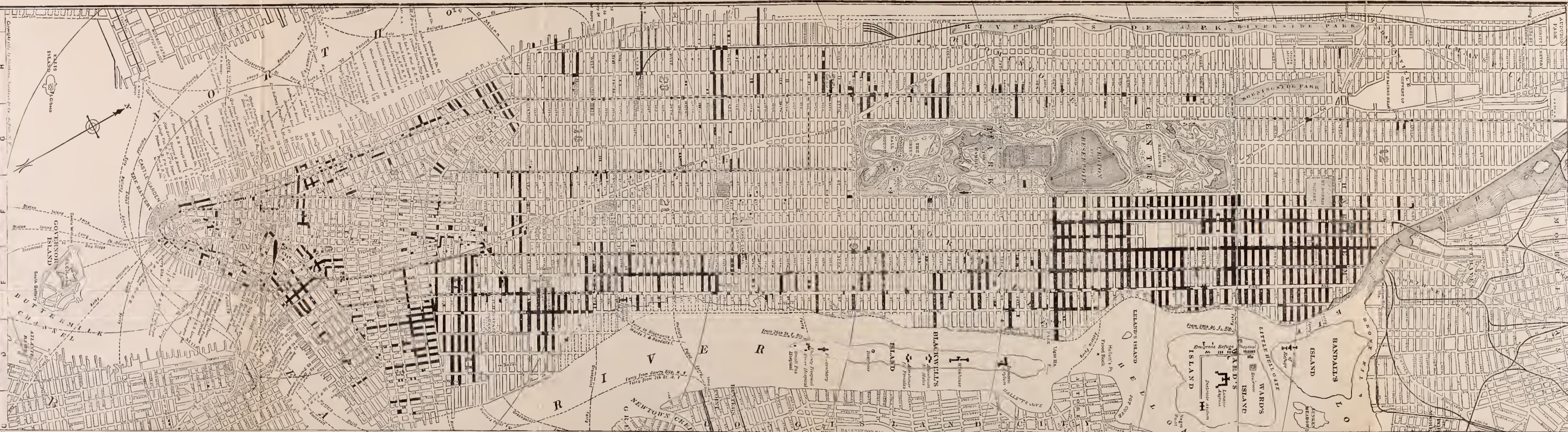
R. B. MINTURN, *Treasurer.*

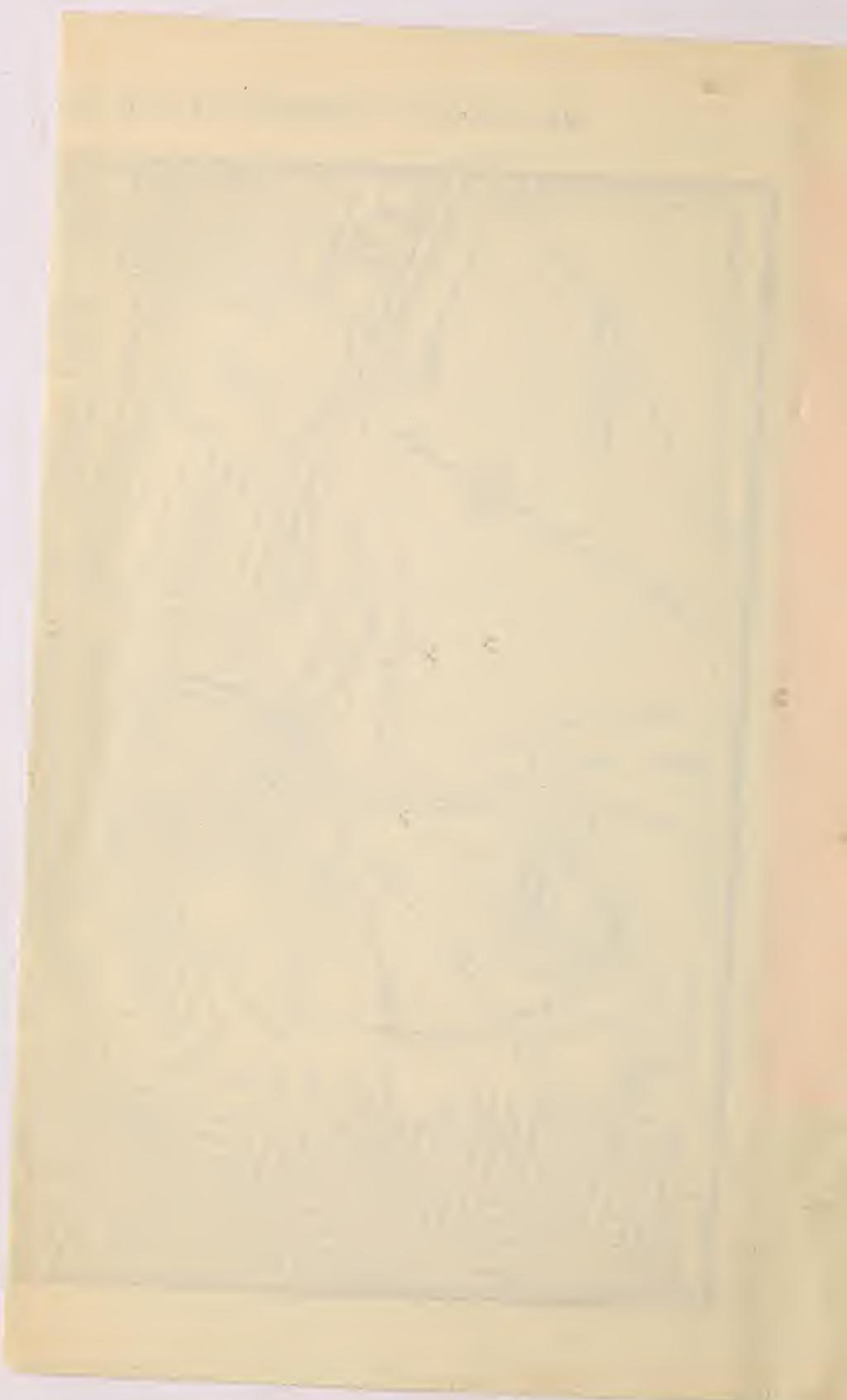
I have examined the above account and find it to be correct.

JAMES B. ELLIMAN, *Auditor and Accountant.*



MAP SHOWING CONDITION OF NEW YORK STREETS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1885.—SHADED PORTIONS SHOW WHERE NUISANCES EXISTED.—Above Twenty-Third Street the complaints were chiefly against building materials obstructing the gutters contrary to law; while below that they were against filth allowed to accumulate.





## SICKNESS AND MORTALITY AMONG THE POOR.

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It is not surprising that where the surroundings of the poor are such as often to deaden the best feelings of our nature, that it is discovered that assistance frequently aids in fastening them more securely in their loathsome condition and renders them less able to rise. Dr. WILLARD PARKER has said: "That if we could see the air breathed by these poor creatures in their tenements, it would show itself to be fouler than the mud of the gutters." Can we fancy such an atmosphere encouraging energy and self respect?

## *Legacies to the Association.*

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As legacies intended for this charity may be lost to the Institution by defects in the phraseology by which the bequests are made, it is considered desirable that the subjoined form should be carefully followed, by persons desiring to make charitable devises to the objects of this Association.

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## *Form of a Bequest.*

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I bequeath to my Executors the sum of                    dollars,  
IN TRUST, to pay over the same in      month after my decease, to  
the person who, when the same is payable, shall act as Treasurer  
to the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor,  
organized in the City of New York, in the year eighteen hundred  
and forty-three, and incorporated eighteen hundred and forty-  
eight, to be applied to the benevolent uses and purposes of said  
Association, and under its direction.